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THE
ALLEYN PAPERS.

A COLLECTION OF
ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF

EDWARD ALLEYN,

AND OF

THE EARLY ENGLISH STAGE AND DRAMA.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

J. PAYNE COLLIER, ESQ., F.S.A.



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INTRODUCTION.

By permission of the Master, Warden, and Fellows of Dulwich College, the Shakespeare Society is enabled to make some curious and interesting additions to its publication, the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn." These additions chiefly consist of documents relating to the life and times of the Founder of Dulwich College, preserved in that institution, with some others, the property of J. O. Halliwell, Esq., which in all probability formerly came out of the same depository, and copies of which he unhesitatingly furnished, in order to render the present publication complete. In the last century, little attention was paid to the custody of these papers: their value was not understood, excepting by a few individuals, and they seem to have been removed without restraint. Malone had the custody of many of them for a long period; and at his death, although the greater part were restored, not a few were dispersed, and found their way into other hands. Of some no intelligence has since been obtained; and it is likely, if they have not been destroyed, that

they belong to individuals who are not even aware that they have possession of such relics.

Edward Alleyn was an actor of great and merited celebrity: he was the rival of Richard Burbage, (who seems to have performed most of the leading characters in Shakespeare's dramas) and it is probable that he left behind him copies of nearly all the parts he represented, as delivered out to him at the theatre to which he belonged, for the purpose of getting them by heart and studying them. One of these (Orlando, in R. Greene's "Orlando Furioso," 1594) is still extant at Dulwich College: but it is the only one; and as this has been handed down to us among the papers of the Founder, we cannot help thinking that they must originally have been much more numerous: if Alleyn kept one, why should he not have kept others?—and had they been now forthcoming, how much they would have contributed to the illustration of our drama and stage is evident from the single specimen which has been preserved, and which is printed entire in the Appendix to the "Memoirs," p. 198. We know that Alleyn was the representative of Faustus, in Marlowe's tragedy of that name, from the subsequent lines by one of his cotemporaries:—

The Gull gets on a surplis,
With a crosse upon his brest,
Like *Allen playing Faustus*;
In that manner was he drest.

S. Rowland's *Knave of Clubs*. 4to. 1600.

Marlowe's drama was not printed until ten years after we first hear of the performance of it; and, as in the

ease of Greene's "Orlando Furioso," had Alleyn's part in it, written out by the copyist of the theatre, been extant, we have no doubt that important additions and variations would have been found in it.

On a different authority we learn that another of Alleyn's famous characters was Cutlack. A play with this title, (derived no doubt from the hero of it) according to Henslowe's Diary, was performed in May, 1594; but no fragment of it has come down to our day. Alleyn's performance of it, with the peculiar "gait" he assumed in the part, it thus mentioned in that very scarce collection of epigrams and satires entitled "Skialetteia, or the Shadow of Truth," 1598, which we know, on the authority of "England's Parnassus," 1600, was the authorship of Edward Guilpin:—

Clodius, me thinkes, lookes passing big of late,
 With Dunstan's browes and *Alleyn's Cutlack's gate*.
 What humours have possess'd him so I wonder:
 His eyes are lightning, and his words are thunder. Sig. B. 2 b.

It would have been highly interesting to have found at Dulwich even such portions of lost plays as Alleyn was concerned in in his capacity of an actor. If he did not take part in any of Shakespeare's works, there is good reason for believing that he did perform in some of the pre-existing dramas on the same subjects, such as the old "Hamlet," the old "Merchant of Venice," the old "Pericles," &c.; and it would have been most interesting to have recovered any fragment of these pieces, by which we might have seen, in some degree, the nature and extent of our great dramatist's obligations to his

predecessors : however, they have probably irretrievably perished, and no doubt had done so long before the time of Malone, or he could hardly have failed to advert to them, although the MS. portion of Greene's "Orlando Furioso" escaped his attention.

The ensuing documents will illustrate, still farther than the facts detailed in the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," his gradual and steady acquisition of wealth, which enabled him, even before the commencement of the seventeenth century, to make considerable purchases of land and houses. There is a remarkable passage in the comedy of "The Return from Parnassus," not printed until 1606, but clearly written before the demise of Elizabeth, which must, we think, refer either to Shakespeare or Alleyn, but has yet never been distinctly applied to either : it relates to the manner in which some person, who had been an actor, was able, by means of his profitable profession, to become the owner of estates, and to obtain the title of esquire. Our readers will be aware that the usual style given to actors of old was merely that of "gentleman;" and it is to the advance of such a person to the rank of an esquire that the anonymous writer of "The Return from Parnassus" adverts. We hear of no other performers of the time, who attained to comparative wealth and consequence, but Shakespeare and Alleyn; and our reasons for thinking that the following quotation relates to Alleyn are, that our great dramatist could hardly be considered sufficiently wealthy, anterior to the death of Elizabeth, to excite observation; and that the person referred to is not spoken of as an author, as well as an

actor, which in all probability Shakespeare would have been, considering his success and popularity as a dramatist, and the inferior place we may suppose that he held as a player :—

Vile world, that lifts them up to high degree,
And treads us down in grovelling misery !
England affords these glorious vagabonds,
That carried erst their fardles on their backs,
Coursers to ride on through the gazing streets,
Sweeping it in their glaring satin suits,
And pages to attend their masterships :
With mouthing words, that better wits have framed,
They purchase lands, and now esquires are made.

The manner in which actors formerly walked about the town, in gaudy and expensive dresses, is alluded to by Gosson, and by various other contemporaneous authorities. This was during their prosperity, and in the metropolis; but at times, when they were obliged to travel round the country, they did not always journey even “each actor on his ass,” but sometimes were obliged to go on foot and to carry packs of apparel, &c., on their backs. In the old “Taming of a Shrew,” 1594, we have an exact representation of this state of their affairs in the following stage-direction :—

Enter two of the Players, *with packs on their backs*, and a boy.

The “boy” was generally the performer of female characters, was commonly apprenticed to some leading member of the company, and possibly now and then officiated in London in the capacity of a page, attending upon his “mastership.”

In connection with the quotation from "The Return from Parnassus," we may remark that what is said in the two last lines is contained, in much the same words, in the rare tract, "Ratseis Ghost, or the Second Part of his Madde Prankes and Robberies," (without date, but published, as is reasonably supposed, prior to 1606) where the highwayman-hero, Gamaliel Ratsey, is giving advice to a country player who had acted before him. In "The Hist. of Engl. Dram. Poetry and the Stage," i., 332, it is conjectured that the expressions may apply to Shakespeare, but on reflection it seems more probable that they were intended for Alleyn. Ratsey recommends the player to try his fortune in London:—

There (says he) thou shalt learn to be frugal, (for players were never so thrifty as they are now about London) and feed upon all men; to let none feed upon thee; to make thy hand a stranger to thy pocket, thy heart slow to perform thy tongue's promise; and when thou feelest thy purse well lined, *buy thee some place of lordship in the country*, that, growing weary of playing, thy money may there bring thee to dignity and reputation: then, thou needest care for no man; no, not for them that before made thee proud with speaking their words on the stage.

It will be recollected, that it was just about the year when the tract from which we have quoted came out, that Alleyn bought his "place of lordship" at Dulwich of Sir Francis Calton, by which he became a lord of the manor. However, the concluding words of the paragraph seem more applicable to Shakespeare than to Alleyn, inasmuch as Alleyn was born in London, and had not, like Shakespeare, come to the metropolis "very meanly:"—"I have heard indeed of some (replied the

player to Ratsey) who have gone to London very meanly, and have come in time to be exceeding wealthy."

Whether the whole passage relate to Shakespeare, or to Alleyn, or to neither, but to some other actor, not now known to have been rich, who had in fact made a fortune by his profession, it is unquestionably very curious, and certainly was meant to have an individual and personal application.

On the subject of Alleyn's property, some additional information has come to light since the collection of the materials for the "Memoirs" of the founder of Dulwich College. It consists of a memorandum-book, kept by Alleyn himself in considerable detail, giving an account of the times at which, the circumstances under which he obtained, and the sums he gave for most of the land, houses, &c. he died possessed of. It is singular, however, that he omits all notice of purchases he made in the Blackfriars in the year 1612, although his Diary contains entries of frequent payments of rent by him, especially to a person of the name of Traves. This deficiency may, perhaps, be explained by the fact that although there is one notice in Alleyn's pocket-book regarding the purchase of "the Blue House" at Dulwich in 1614, and another in 1613, respecting money paid for 17 acres of land in the same neighbourhood, the memoranda regarding other property do not come down to a later date than 1610. We may infer from hence, that whatever might be the precise nature of his property in the Blackfriars, (and there is little doubt that it was leasehold, and none that it was theatrical) he did not acquire it until after 1610. Alleyn's pocket-book is also,

for the same reason, silent on the subject of his "lands in Yorkshire," mentioned in his will as having been "lately purchased of George Cole, Esq." A letter from Cole to Alleyn, dated 16th Feb. 1625, is inserted in the "Memoirs," p. 181, which may refer to some part of this transaction. It is to be observed that Malone saw this autograph record-book, and made an extract from it relating to the cost of the Fortune Theatre; but it was afterwards mislaid for many years, and was only recently discovered in the old "Treasury Chest of God's Gift College," as it is called in the carving on the lid.¹

We will first insert the details with which we are thus furnished, (leaving out only the useless titles of deeds and "evidences," as Alleyn calls them) and then follow them by a few explanatory remarks. One item cannot fail to strike the reader immediately: it shews that Edward Alleyn (at what precise date does not appear) was in possession of an inn called "The Boar's Head," which had formerly been kept by his elder brother, John Alleyn. No locality is stated; but it would be very singular if it were the very Boar's Head in Eastcheap, which existed in the time of Shakespeare, and which he has made so famous. It was, however, not an uncommon sign in London; and the inn which John Alleyn at one time kept in Bishopsgate, and which he inherited from his father, may have been so called.

¹ The writer of this "Introduction," not then contemplating the present Supplement to the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," as few of the materials for it had reached his hands, published a summary of the contents of the pocket-book in a literary journal, soon after he had found it.—See the "Athenæum," August 28th, 1841.

We give the following, *verbatim et literatim*, as they stand in Edward Alleyn's handwriting in the pocket-book, a small 8vo. of considerable thickness, upon many of the leaves of which nothing is entered.

EXTRACTS FROM A MEMORANDUM-BOOK IN ALLEYN'S
HANDWRITING.

What the Bear garden cost for my owne part in December, 1594.

First to M ^r Burnabye	.	.	.	.	.	200 ^l
Then for the Patten[t]	.	.	.	.	.	250
					Some is	450
I held it 16 year, and Rd 60 ^l per annum, which is	.					960 ^l
Sould itt to my father, Hinchloe, in Februarie, 1610, for	.					580 ^l

*What the Parsnage of Firlls coste me (in all) of redy money or
other wayes.*

First to Ar. Langth [Langworth]	.	.	.	.	1066	13	4
3 years daye forberaunc	.	.	.	.
The last payment lost, which he should have payd	.				66	13	4
I gave hym at last parting	.	.	.	.	070 ^l		
With 2 bonds of	.	.	.	.	30 ^l		
My charges for conveyances and law	.	.	.	.	10 ^l		
Which is in all, without allowaunc for 3 year forbe-							
raunc,	.	.	.	.	1273	6	8
So in all it cost	.	.	.	.	1323	6	8

What I reseved of itt

5 payments from Ar. Langworth a 100 marks							
A payment half yearly	.	.	.	.	333	vj	8
For j years of Crop to Page declare	.	.	.	.	100 ^l		
For 4 years of M ^r Roots declare	.	.	.	.	440 ^l		
					Some 873	vj	8
Sowld this parsnage to M ^r Homden and M ^r Bunc							
about Christ., 1605, for	.	.	.	.	1300 ^l		

What the Fortune cost me, Novemb., 1599.

First for the leas to Brew	240 ^l
Then for the building the playhouse	520 ^l
For other privat buildings of myn owne	120 ^l
So in all it hath cost me for the lease	880 ^l
Bought the inheritance of the land of the Gills of the Ile of Man, which is the Fortune, and all the howses in Whight crosstrett and Gowlding lane, in June, 1610, for the some of	340 ^l
Bought in John Garretts lease in reversion from the Gills, for 21 yeares, for	100 ^l

So in all itt cost me 1320^l.

Bleased be the Lord God everlasting.

What the Manore of Kenington cost me, Novemb., 1604.

First to M ^r Skevingtonn for the lease in possession	660 ^l
Then to Tho. Webber for the lease being in reversion	405 ^l

So in all, 1065^l.

Sowld this mannor of Kennington to Sir Fr. Calton, Knight, the 1st
of Septemb., 1609, for 2000^l.

In no. do. Amen. An. 1605.

Bought the lordshipp of Dulwich of S^r Francis Calton, Knight,
this 20 of October, for 5000^l.

Wher of 2000^l is payd in hand.

The other 3000^l at the end of 6 yeares, with consideration yearly
for forberaunce of the 3000^l, the some of 213^l 6^s 8^d per ann.

Pd S^r Fr. the said some of 3000^l att severall payments, and the
last on the 25 of October, 1613.

[This is followed by a list headed "The Evidences belonging to
the same," containing the substance of the writings Alleyn received
from Sir Francis Calton. They are 32 in number, besides some can-
celled indentures, statutes, bonds, &c., between Sir Francis Calton
and "Sir Ro. Lee, Mayor."]

j of June, in Trinitie Terme, 1606.

Bought of M^r Tho. Emerson a howse and 5 acers of lande in Dul-
wich, price 230^l, of free hould sockage tenure.

[Sixteen "Evidences belonging to the same" follow here.]

In Trinitie Terme, 1606, the 3rd of July.

In Dullwich, bought of M^r Tho. Calton, Hethersalls howse and land, viz. 16 acers cald North Croftes, 12 acres calde great Bornes, 4 acers about the howse, in all 32 acres.

Price 300^l. Tenure in Capitie.

[Here follow 4 "Evidences of the lands that were Tho. Caltons."]

The 16 of October, 1606.

In Dullwich, bought of John Berrey his howse and land, conteyn-
ing 13 acres, being coppie howld of the same mannore, price 231^l.

["The wrightings belonging to the same" follow.]

Candelmass Tearm, 1606.

Bought of John Ewine Bodgers Howse and land, which he howld-
eth by lease, vidz. j. tenement and 9 acers of land for the some
of 80^l.

Bought in the lease which Ewin had in reversion of the same
howse and land from me for 21 years, and for the same lease payd
the same John Ewin, the 25 of April, 1608, the some of 12^l.

["The Evidences of the lands wear Jo. Ewins," 12 in number,
follow.]

Cundellmass Terme, 1606.

Bought of Thomas Turner his howse and land in Dullwich, calde
Perrie Feeld, contayning 13 acers, for the some of . 226^l 13^s 4^d

Given Ewin for procuration, and making the bargayne 5^l

["The Evidences of the lands that wear Tho. Turners," 21 in
number, follow.]

The j of June, 1607.

Bought of Tho. Calton and his wyfe, Henrie Farr and his wyfe, the
corner howse in Dullwich, and 16 acres of land.

[Eight "Evidences belonging to the same" follow.]

The 22nd of October, 1607.

Bought of Elice Parrei all his landes in Dullwich, as well free as

coppie howld, vidz. Amble howse and land, Anthonie Kichins howse and land, and Jo Lewes howse and grownd, for 400^l.

[Twelve "Evidences belonging to the same" follow.]

The 29th off october, 1608, bought of Tho. Calton 2 percells of land in the occupation of Jo Fering, caled Little Brownings and Carters garden, beeing 5 akers more or less, which landes wear past in the conveighanc of the landes I bought of Jo. Ewine in Hilarie Terme, 1606, and nowe pd to the same Tho. Calton for the sayd landes the sume of 50^l.

The Evidenc for the same is Calton's release as afore, as itt is sett downe before in Ewins evydences.

The 13th off December, 1608.

Bought of Sr. Ed. Bowyar all ther lands in Dullwich, and Tenimentes both free and coppie howld, being about 70 akers, and 8 or 9 Howses, for the sume of 1650^l.

And as this 13 of December I kept Court at Dullwich, and they surendred their coppiehold.

[Numerous "Evidences" follow.]

Bought the Inheritannc off the Fortune the 30th off maye, 1610, and allso the lease in reversion of Jo Garrett the same tyme, for the sume of 440^l.

[Forty "Evidences for the same" follow.]

[This is succeeded, after two or three blank pages, by "More wrightings concerning the Lordshipp of Dullwich," which are very numerous.]

Bought of Tho. Calton and his wyfe Ann ther dwelling howse and Hethersalls howse, with theys percells of grownd following.

3 acres behynde Tho. Caltons howse.

4 acres, caled Carters Hall, belonging to Hethersall howse.

7 acres, calde great Brownings.

12 acres, caled Addingtons meadowes.

Theys percelles for 510^l, the 25 off November, 1611, and R. Jacobus the 9th.

[Eighteen "Evidences belonging to the same" follow.]

Bought of Sr. E. Duke, Knight, the 2 of November, 1613, 17 acres off land, lying betwene Blanch Downes and the highe waye towards the north, for the some of 160^l.

[Six "Evidences for the same" follow.]

A generall note of all my writings, deedes or evidences, bondes or bills, belonging to me,

E. ALLEYN.

[Among these are the following.]

My deedes for the wharfe in the Close.

Lo. Mountagnes lease to West.

Young West to Robert Bromfeeld. Indentur Ro. Bromfeeld to me by pole dede.

Itt cost me 115^l.

The deedes of my howses in Bushopsgate Street.

An indentur of sale from Cornelius [Parker] to my father.

My fathers will.

A releas from my mother and Brown to John and me, in Lattin.

[The following are crossed out.]

Of the Bores Head.

A leas from Julyan Cropwell to John Alen.

His pol dede to me.

A bond on the same.

My howse on the Banck.

The leas to Curtis.

Roberts his sale to me.

[Then follows a list of a variety of deeds, &c., under the general heading of,]

The Wrightings of the Bear Garden.

[Among them these.]

Ballards lease to Pope.

Morgin Pope to Edward Boes.

Rafe Boes and Edward Boes to Morgin Pope.

b

Rafe Boes and Edward Boes to Burnabie.
 Burnabie to Edward Alleyn.
 Edward Alleyn to Phelop Henslow.
 Jacobe Meades lease.

Bonds.

A bond of Wisloes for covenants of 200^{li}.
 Pope to Hayes in 200^{li}.
 Napton to Pope a 100 markes.
 Burnabie to Alleyn in 40 pounds.
 Burnabie to Alleyn in 100 pounds.
 Burnabie to Alleyn in 200 pounds.
 Burnabie to Alleyn in 300 pounds.
 Henslow to Alleyn in 500 pounds.
 Henslow to Alleyn in 500 pounds.
 Jacob Meade in 300 pounds.

The wrightings of Firles.

The church lease to Mathew Marsh and Peter Marsh for 250 years.

A conveyance from Peter Marsh and Mathewe to M^r. Wattes, Aldermann.

Frome John Chapman to Wattes.
 Frome Earl to Wattes.
 Frome Wattes to Buckhurst.
 Frome Lo. Buckhurst to his sonn.
 Frome M^r Ro. Sackvile to A. Langworth.
 From A. Langworth to E. Allin.
 From E Allin to Jo. Langworth.
 From Jo. Langworth to E. Allin.
 A releas from A. Langworth.
 2 bondes of 2 thousand pound.
 Richard Earles Letter of Attorney to Chapman.

Bought the j. daye of June, 1614, an^o. R. Jacobus, the 12th, of Marie Shillingford and Francis Shillingford, off Aylesford, in Kent, mother and sone, all theyr 3d partes, part and parcell of a Tenement

in Dulwich, called the Blew House, and tooke it in the names of Phillip Henslowe, Esq., Will. Austen, Esq., Jo. Bingham, Esq., George Payne, cittisone and grocer of London, Rich. Yarwoode, cittizen and grocer off London, Roger Cole, Robert Bromefeeld, Edw. Bromefeeld, Jo. Marshall, and Drew Stapley, in trust to such uses as I, E. A. shall in my last will and testament, or other deed under hand and seale declare. The some pd. wase 16^{li}

[Eight "Evidences belonging to the same" follow.]

Thus we see that Alleyn bought his share of Paris Garden as early as 1594, and that he sold it to Henslowe (the husband of his wife's mother) in 1610 for £120 more than he had given for it, and after he had derived £60 a-year from it for sixteen years. He did nearly as well with the parsonage of Firle, in Sussex, which he bought (the date is not inserted) for £1323, and sold again in 1605 for £1300, after receiving £873 from it in the interval. The Fortune Theatre cost him £1320: from 1599 to 1610 he paid rent for the ground on which it stood, but in the latter year he was able to purchase the inheritance from the Gills, as well as a reversionary interest possessed by a person of the name of John Garrett. In 1604 Alleyn bought the Manor of Kennington for £1065, and after holding it for five years, and no doubt reaping considerable advantage from it, he sold it to Sir Francis Calton for nearly £1000 more than he had paid for it. The year after he became possessed of the Manor of Kennington, Alleyn paid down £2000 for the Manor of Dulwich, and agreed to give £3000 more in six years, paying interest upon it; but the last payment was not, in fact, made until 1613. Possibly the delay was occasioned by the

expenditure of Alleyn from time to time in the accumulation of other landed property in Dulwich which belonged to various parties : in the whole Alleyn gave no less a sum than £8870 for his estate at Dulwich, which would be equal to more than £40,000 of our present money. Well, therefore, might the author of "Ratsey's Ghost" say (if the allusion be to Alleyn) that he "had come in time to be exceeding wealthy."

These particulars, it will be evident, are of importance with reference to Shakespeare, and to the property he acquired during his professional life. If Alleyn could attain to such wealth, being merely an actor, it renders it more likely that Shakespeare, when he retired to Stratford-upon-Avon, had realised at least a comfortable and easy independence.

In the "Memoirs," pp. 179 and 187, the marriage of Edward Alleyn with his second (or possibly third) wife Constance is mentioned, and some doubt is stated whether she were or were not the daughter of Dr. Donne. The Editor was not then aware of the fact, since brought to his knowledge, that the Parish Register of Camberwell Old Church contains the following record of Alleyn's union with Constance Donne, within six months after the death of his wife Joan, whose maiden name was Woodward. We copy it from a communication made to "The Gentleman's Magazine" in 1834 by that excellent antiquary, Mr. G. Steinman Steinman :—

Married December 3^d, 1623, Edward Alleyn, Esq. to Mrs. Constance Donn.

Of course this extract puts an end to all question upon the point, and gives much additional interest to the

letter of Alleyn to his father-in-law, preserved at Dulwich, and printed in the "Memoirs," p. 173. It throws much new and curious light on the character and conduct of Dr. Donne. Constance Alleyn, as Mr. Steinman Steinman correctly states, afterwards married Samuel Harvey, Esq., of Abury Hatch, Essex, at whose house Dr. Donne was seized with his last illness.

It will be seen, by Alleyn's will, (a copy of which we subjoin) that he left his wife two sums of £1500 and £100, and all her jewels and other ornaments. This was more than he had undertaken before marriage, as is evident from the letter of Alleyn to Donne just referred to; and in addition she retained what she had brought her husband, which, according to the same authority, appears to have been £500. Alleyn's will, which we believe has never till now been printed, is in the following terms; and we learn from it that Mathias Alleyn, afterwards Master of Dulwich College, was "cousin" to Edward Alleyn, but what degree of relationship the latter meant to indicate by that word does not appear. It may be considered singular that he does not name in his will any of his early friends and associates, although not a few of them must have been then living, and although he kept up his intercourse with some of them to a late date.

EXTRACTED FROM THE REGISTRY OF THE PREROGATIVE
COURT OF CANTERBURY.

In the name of God, Amen, the thirteenth day of November, Anno Dom., 1626, and in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles, &c., I, Edward Alleyn, of Dulwich, in the

county of Surrey, Esquire, being sick in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my presente testament, declaring herein my last will in manner and form following: that is to say, first and principally I commend my soul to Almighty God, my merciful Creator, and to Jesus Christ, my most loving Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by whose merits I only trust to be saved, and made partaker of everlasting life: and my body I will to the earth, from whence it came, without any vain funeral pomp, or show, to be interred in the quire of that chapel, which God of his goodness hath caused me to erect, and dedicate to the honor of my Saviour, by the name of Christ's Chappell, in God's Gift College, heretofore by me founded in Dulwich aforesaid.

Item, my mind and will is, that all such debts and duties, which of right or in confidence I do owe and stand truly indebted in unto any person or persons whatsoever, shall be truly paid and satisfied after my decease, so shortly and conveniently as may be.

And whereas, I, the said Edward Alleyn, and one Matthias Allen, he being a person by me put in trust, for and in performance and assurance of one thousand and five hundred pounds, to and for my dear and loving wife Constance Alleyn, after my decease have by two several deeds of demise, grant, and assignment, bearing date the nine and twentieth day of June, last past, before the date of these presents, granted, assigned, and set over, unto S^r Nicholas Carew, of Beddington, and S^r Thomas Grymes, of Peckham, in the county of Surrey, knights, their executors and assigns, one capital messuage and tenement, or inn, called the Unicorn, in Saint Saviours parish, in the borough of Southwark, in the county of Surrey, and all other messuages and tenements there, &c.

And also, I, the said Edward Alleyn, and Matthias Alleyn, by the other of the said deeds, have likewise granted, assigned, and set over, unto the said Sir Nicholas Carew and S^r Thomas Grymes, their executors, and assigns, certain capital messuages and tenements, called the Barge, the Bell, and the Cock, situate and lying on the bank side, in the parish of Saint Saviours aforesaid. And whereas, likewise for further assurance of the said one thousand five hundred pounds, for my said wife as aforesaid, I, the said Edward Alleyn, have acknowledged a statute of two thousand pounds, bearing the

said date of the nine and twentieth day of June last, unto the said Sir Nicholas Carew, and S^r Thomas Grimes.

And whereas, by a pair of indentures of defeazance, dated the said nine and twentieth day of June last, between me, the said Edward Alleyn, and the said S^r Nicholas Carew, and S^r Thomas Grimes, knights, wherein the said two knights have covenanted, that, if my said wife (in case she survive me) shall by me, and out of my estate, be left the said sum of one thousand five hundred pounds, in ready money, and that then my executor, or executors, shall, within three months after my decease, pay to her, the said Constance, the said sum of one thousand five hundred pounds, that then, and not otherwise, the said statute of two thousand pounds, to be void and of none effect, together with the two deeds of assignment, or to resign them to such person or persons, as I, the said Edward, shall nominate and appoint.

Now in full performance of the aforesaid assurance, and to shew my full desire to have it really accomplished, I will and require my executors hereunder named, that, first and principally, my loving wife Constance, (in case she survive me) be, according to my agreement, fully satisfied in the best manner that may be; and then I desire the said two knights to resign and set over the said two knights' leases unto my executors.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said loving wife, Constance Alleyn, in testimony of my further love to her, and for her present use and benefit, one hundred pounds more, of lawfull money of England, which I have already, vidt., on the six and twentieth day of September last, in the presence of Mathew Sweeteser, Edward Alleyn, John Sayford, and John Casinghurst, delivered to and for her use, unto the hands and custody of the said S^r Thomas Grimes; and moreover I give unto my said wife all her jewels and other ornaments she is now possessed withall.

Item, I give and bequeath to the Corporation of God's-Gift College aforesaid, these goods and implements following, that is to say: first my seal ring with my arms, to be worn by the Master and his successors. Next I appoint that a common seal shall be made for the said College, at the charge of my executors, which said two seals shall be repaired by the College as often as need shall require.

Also all the wainscots, hangings, pictures, carpets, presses, tables, chairs, fforms, and stools, in the said College, with all shelves, desks, and seats, also my books and instruments, and likewise all the furniture in the twelve poor schollars chamber, that is to say, six bed-steads, six matts, sixe mattresses, six feather beds, six feather bolsters, twelve pair of sheets, twelve blankets, twelve rugs, three dozen of bedstaves, and six pewter chamber potts; also I give unto the said College, of my linen, twelve table cloaths, six dozen of napkins, and six towels, whereof one sort or suit shall be of damask, and other of diaper; likewise two dozen of pewter vessell, with all other brass and iron vessell of ffurniture, which shall be in use of the said College, at the hour of my death, in any room of the said College whatsoever; also all implements and tools of husbandry, together with two furnished teams, the one with five horses, and the other with six oxen, and my mind is, that all these goods by me given to the said College, shall be by my executors presently by inventory delivered unto them to be continually by the said College kept in good repair.

Also, I will and require my executors, hereafter named, within two years after my decease, to build ten almshouses, in the parish of Saint *Buttolphe*, without Bishopgate, London, for ten poor people of that parish, to be members of the aforessaid College. And likewise ten other houses in S^t Saviours parish aforesaid, for other ten poor people of the said parish, to be likewise members of the said College, which said twenty poor people being placed in their several houses, shall have such relief and maintenance as in the statutes of the aforesaid College is set down.

Item, I give to Thomas Alleyn, the son of John Alleyn, late of Willen, in the county of Bucks, being my cousin and next heir at the common law, the sum of fifty pounds.

Item, I give to Edward Alleyn, junior, of Newport, the sum of twenty pounds; and to his two sisters, Elizabeth Newman and Anne Ashpoole, twenty pounds a-piece; and I give unto my Aunt Jane Waldoock, of Water-Eaton, the sum of ten pounds.

Item, I give to Anne Alleyn, the now wife of John Harrison, clerk, the sum of twenty pounds.

Item, I will my copyhold lands in Lambeth Marshes to Edward

Alleyn, my godson, and his heirs male, (which I hope the custom there will allow); and, for want of such issue, to John Alleyn, the son of Mathias Alleyn, and his heirs for ever.

Item, I give to Sir Francis Calton, knight, the sum of one hundred pounds, and hereby forgive him twenty pounds he owes me on his lre due long since.

Item, I give to Elizabeth Cutler, my late wife's god-daughter, the sum of ten pounds.

Item, I give to Hanna Pickerley the sum of ten pounds.

Item, I give to Elizabeth Fassell, a young girl that is now in my house, ten pounds.

Item, I give to all the rest of my household servants that are in my service at the time of my death, so many pounds a-piece as they severally have been and continued years in my service, besides their wages then due.

Item, I will and bequeath to the churchwardens of Saint Buttolphes without Bishopgate, London, and their successors, for ever, a tene-ment in Dulwich, with the appurtenances, called the Blew House, now in the tenure of Edward Kipping, to and for the only use of the poor of their said parish, to be by them employed and disposed of in such manner and form as in the statute of God's-Gift College aforesaid is set down, and not otherwise.

And my Will is, and I do hereby declare that, after the said fifteen hundred pounds, and all and every the legacies herein above bequeathed shall be respectively paid, that the said two leases so assigned as aforesaid to the said Sir Nicholas Carew and Sir Thomas Grimes shall be and remain to the said corporation of God's-Gift College as an augmentation unto them, during the terms thereof, over and above what I have already assigned and assured unto them, to be employed current according to the intent of the statutes of the said college.

And I give and bequeath (after my legacies paid) to my two ex-ecutors herein to be named, all my lands in Yorkshire, by what name or names, or title soever called or known, which I lately purchased of George Cole, Esq., in their two names, to hold to them and their two heirs and assigns jointly for ever.

And I do by these presents give and bequeath all the rest and

residue of my goods, chattles, cattle, and ready money whatsoever, after my funerals are discharged and my debts paid, with all the legacies of this my Will performed, unto Thomas Alleyn and Mathias Alleyn, my kinsmen, whom of this my last Will and Testament I make my sole executors, charging them, as they will answer it before the face of Almighty God, at the dreadful day of judgement, that they truly and punctually in every particular (so far fourth as they possibly may) perform this my last Will and Testament.

And I do hereby revoke all former Will and Wills by me at any time heretofore made; and in witness of this my last Will, containing two sheets of paper, I have to the bottom of each sheet subscribed my name, and, being both sheets joined together, at the foot thereof set to my seal, the day and year first above written.

E. ALLEYN.

Sealed, Delivered, and Published as his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, Joseph Reading | = | Matthew Sweetenser | = | Henry Dell | = | John Casinghurst | = | Geo. Brome.

Probatum apud London, 13 Dec. 1626. Coram Magro Thoma Ryves Legum Doctore surrogato juramentis Thome Alleyn et Mathie Alleyn executorum cui, &c. debe, &c. Jurat.

Some of the most valuable papers in the ensuing pages, especially in relation to the history and state of our Stage in the time of Shakespeare, were copied for Malone, and are inserted in vol. xxi. of the edition of the works of our great dramatist, edited by Boswell in 1821. We say that they were copied for Malone, because we can hardly believe that he would have himself been guilty of so many errors and oversights: he must have employed some person to transcribe them who could not read any old writing with facility,

and, least of all, some of the hasty scraps of Daborne and others in Henslowe's pay, who were constantly pressing him for money in advance upon compositions then in hand. From this, and other testimony derived from the old manager's diary, we find that it was the frequent custom for the urgent wants of dramatists to be thus supplied, and hardly one of those who wrote for Henslowe's company, from Ben Jonson downwards, finished a new play without making some claims of the kind. Whether such was the case at other theatres is a question we have no means of deciding beyond inference ; but there is good reason to suppose that Shakespeare, excepting perhaps very early in his career, was able to avoid making such demands. Judging from what we know of Henslowe's practice, we may conclude that the purchasers of new plays usually paid a stipulated sum to the authors, and took the risk upon themselves. An agreement on the part of a dramatist to accept a contingent advantage, depending upon the receipts of a particular night or nights, seems to have been an exception to the rule, and we hear of it of old only in the case of Daborne.

The mistakes and omissions committed by Malone's scribe sometimes affect importantly the whole sense of a passage ; at others, one name is substituted for another, as William Haughton, the dramatist, for a person known as " Will Hunt, the pedlar," (p. 24) : wrong dates and sums are here and there given, and, in one instance, lines from some lost play, in the handwriting of John Day, the celebrated dramatist, were wholly overlooked at the back of a note from Samuel Rowley, relating to a drama

called "The Six Yeomen of the West," (p. 23). These defects and deficiencies it was obviously necessary to correct and supply, and such original papers of the kind as remain at Dulwich we have carefully collated. One of them contains the signatures of the different members of the company under Alleyn, just before the death of Shakespeare, and these we have given in fac-simile (p. 87) as a remarkable relic of the period. Henslowe's Diary furnishes others of an earlier date, which will be contained in the forthcoming impression of that unique and most valuable manuscript.

As we have assigned a title to each separate document, and introduced it by such information as seemed necessary, or could be procured, in order to render the subject intelligible, we need not here say more of their particular import. The Shakespeare Society is again obliged (as in the case of the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn") to the Master, Warden, and Fellows of Dulwich College, for the unrestricted use of the archives of that Institution. The collection of the materials for this small work was commenced in the time of the late learned, liberal, and accomplished Master, John Allen, to whom many of our literary associations are more or less indebted: it has been continued under the sanction of the present Master; and the labours of the editor have not only been encouraged, but readily assisted by the Rev. Charles Howes, who has now the custody of the library and manuscripts, and upon whose time and patience frequent encroachments were necessarily made. If a Shakespeare Society had existed fifty years ago, and the same liberal spirit, which the editor has invari-

ably experienced, had then prevailed among the heads of the establishment, we have no doubt that much new and valuable light, now obscured or extinguished, might have been thrown upon the condition of our stage and drama during the whole of the period when Shakespeare was an actor or an author. We have done our best both to preserve and to perpetuate what remains of the large mass of papers which must formerly have been in the possession of "The College of God's Gift." Some of these may, possibly, be considered of trifling moment; but there are few which do not, either directly or indirectly, illustrate the more immediate objects of the Shakespeare Society, and the state of society and manners at the end of the reign of Elizabeth, and in the beginning of that of her successor.

J. P. C.

Kensington, September, 1843.

NOTES TO THE INTRODUCTION.

Page vi. line 6. Richard Burbage, who seems to have performed most of the leading characters in Shakespeare's dramas.] This fact, hitherto depending upon conjecture, is ascertained, from the MS. Epitaph upon Burbage, sold among the books of the late Mr. Heber, a copy of which is contained in "New Particulars regarding the Works of Shakespeare," 8vo. 1836. Hence we find that Burbage was the original Hamlet, Romeo, Prince Henry, Henry the Fifth, Richard the Third, Macbeth, Brutus, Coriolanus, Shylock, Lear, Pericles, and Othello. These parts are all distinctly mentioned as having been sustained by Burbage, and on the same authority we know that he played Jeronimo in Kyd's "Spanish Tragedy," Antonio in Marston's "Antonio and Mellida," Frankford in Heywood's "Woman Killed with Kindness," Philaster, Amintas, &c.

Page vi. line 28. S. Rowland's Knave of Clubs.] This tract, with two others, belonging to the same amusing class in literature, has recently been reprinted by the Percy Society, under the editorial care of Mr. Rimbault, in the state in which it came from the press in the edition of 1611. We highly approve of these reprints in their entire shape, since nothing can well be more mistaken than to suppose that what may seem indecorous to our more refined ears (the difference being only in the increased susceptibility of those organs, and certainly not in any greater sensibility of heart or purity of manners) was so considered by our ancestors, or ought, in truth, to be so estimated by ourselves.

Page vii. line 4. Important additions would have been found in it.] There is, however, no reason to think that "Faustus" was originally printed as imperfectly as some others of Marlowe's dramas—"The Massacre at Paris," for instance, (by E. White, without date) which obviously consists only of fragments of the old manuscript. That it was so we have positive proof beyond internal evidence; and in the last edition of "Dodsley's Old Plays," viii. 244, is inserted a small portion of the tragedy derived from a manuscript of the time, which contains considerably more than the printed copy. We may take this opportunity of pointing out the absurdity of imputing to Marlowe the play of "Lust's Dominion," after the direct proof afforded (D. O. P. last edit. ii. 311), that he could not have written one line of it. Nevertheless, whenever "Lust's Dominion" has been since spoken of, it has still been attributed to Marlowe. It is doubtless the same piece as is called "The Spanish Moor's Tragedy" in Henslowe's Diary, which Malone strangely misread "The Spanish Morris." It was written by Dekker, Haughton, and Day. See Hist. Engl. Dram. Poetry and the Stage, iii. 96.

Page vii. line 7. Derived, no doubt, from the hero of it.] The "Biographia Dramatica" not very happily suggests that for "Cut-lack" we ought to read "Good lack," as the title of the drama.

Page vii. line 15. This circumstance was first pointed out in "Reasons for a new Edition of Shakespeare's Works," 8vo. 1841. A beautiful but very restricted reprint of "Skialetheia" has recently been made by Edw. V. Utterson, Esq. It consists, we believe, of 15 impressions, but of the original edition only three copies appear to be known.

Page ix. line 22. The old "Taming of a Shrew," 1594.] The Shakespeare Society is about to reprint this valuable relic, of which only a single copy of that date remains. It is in the collection of the Duke of Devonshire, who has most liberally placed it at the disposal of Mr. Amyot for the purpose. His Grace has also the impression of 1607, which Steevens used; and a unique copy, dated 1596, is in the library of Lord Francis Egerton. All three will be collated by Mr. Amyot, in order to render his edition as perfect as possible.

THE

ALLEYN PAPERS.

RELEASE TO JOHN ALLEYN.

[John Alleyn, or Allen, as the name is spelt in the following document, was the elder brother of Edward, the founder of Dulwich College. From a similar instrument dated 18 November, 1580, it appears that John Alleyn was at that date one of the theatrical servants to Lord Sheffield. See "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," p. 3.]

Be yt knowen unto all men by theis presentes that I, Richard Johnson of the parishe of St. Gyles, without Creeplegate, London, carter, have remysed, released, and for me, myne heres, executors, and administrators perpetually, quite claymed to John Allen of London, yeoman, all and all manner of actions, as well reall as personall suites, quarrells, trespasses, executions, somes of money, debtes, duties, and demaunds whatsoever, which I the said Richard Johnson now have, ever hadde, or of right ought to have had, against the said John Allen, for any cause, matter or thinge whatsoever, from the begynnyng of the worlde untill the day of the date hereof. In witnes whereof I, the said Richard Johnson, have hereunto sett my hand and

B

seale the second day of December Anno Regni dnæ nostræ
Reginæ Elizabeth nunc xxii^o.

(Seal, but no name nor mark.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered
in the presence of us—

HENRY WRYGHT

THOMAS CURTES

THOMAS MADOCKS.

ANOTHER RELEASE TO JOHN ALLEYN.

[A document of the same kind as that which precedes. What claims either Johnson or Cox had upon John Alleyn (here called Inn-holder) is nowhere stated. A Robert Cox, at a considerably later date, was connected with the stage, as a writer or compounder of Drolls acted at fairs, &c.]

Be it knowne unto all men by these presentes that I, Roberte Cox, of Bemyster, in the countie of Dorset, yeoman, have remised, released, and alwayes for me my heres, executors and administrators, for evermore have quite claymed to John Allen, Citizen and Inholder of London, all and all maner of actions, as well reall as personall, sutes, quarrelles, debtes, debates, somes of money, recknings, accomptes, and demaundes whatsoever, w^{ch} againste the same John ever I had, have, or by any wayes or meanes hereafter may have, for any maner of matter, reason, cause, or thing, whatsoever it be, from the begynnyng of the world untill the day of the date hereof; and also all bondes, writings, covenantes, and all other matters whatsoever. In witness wherof I have here unto set my hande and seale, the eighte and twentieth day of November, 1586, and in the nyne and twentieth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Quene of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, defendour of the fayth, &c.

ROBT. COX. (L. S.)

Sigillat. et delibat. in presentia mei Johnis
Harvey, apprenticius Tho. Wrightson
Scr. &c. curialis London.

INVENTORY OF FURNITURE, &c.

[The subsequent Inventory exhibits John Alleyne in 1587 as creditor and administrator to a person of the name of Richard Browne: Browne was probably some relation to the stepfather of John, Edward, and William Alleyne, their mother, Margaret, after the death of their father having married a haberdasher of that name.]

Thinuentarie indented of all and singuler the goods, chattels, and debtes, which late were belonging and appertayning unto Richard Browne, Shipwrighte, late of the parish of Alhallowes in Lomberstrete, deceased, which were renounced by Margery Browne his wife, praysed the eight day of Januarye, Anno Regni Elizabeth Reginæ tricesimo, by us Phillipp Browne gent. and James Tunstall yeoman as followeth—

	s.	d.
Imprimis an old bedsted, a bed, a bolster, a blanket, and a coverlett	xvj	
Item a cupbord, a settle bedstede, a little table, ij old chestes and fye stooles	viiij	iiij
Item an old chest and iiij old chayres	ij	vj
Item old brasse	vj	
Item certayne peices of pewter, wayeng about xx pound wait	vj	viiij
Item ij payr of old sheetes, three old napkins, ij old table clothes, and ij hand towells	v	
Item a payre of andyrans, a payre of tongues, a fierr shovell, and a payr of pothookes		xviiij

Summa Totalis hujus Inventarij xlvj

Extum fecit &c., 23^o die Januarij A^o dom. juxta &c. 1587

p Johem Allen creditorem et Administratorem pro pleno &c.

THO. REDMAN, deputatus

JO. INCENT REGRARIJ &c.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.

[A singular document, by which it was intended to influence the decision of a suit in favour of the servant of the writer. That servant was John Alleyn, and the nobleman who was thus to interpose was the Earl of Nottingham, to whose company of actors John Alleyn at this time belonged. It is merely the draft of a letter, and the probability is that it was never sent, the object having been accomplished without it.]

After my very hartly commendōns. Whereas my Lls. of her Mat^{tes} Privie Counsell did in July last direct their letters to the now Lo. M. of the cytty of London, All. Byllyngsly and others, for the endyng of a controversye between this bearer, my servant, and one Docter Marten, who by indirect meanes, as their lordshippes have beene gyven to understand, seekethe to mak ; for that a lease of a certayn tenement with a garden, demised by John Royse to the suppliants father, mother, and hym sellfe, as by ther sayd letters may at large appear: for asmuch as the sayd Lo. M. and the rest have commytted the decyding of the variance to Mr. Sallter and Mr. Woodecock, as arbytrators, and your sellfe as umpire in the cawse, because they dowttd not by reason of your suffyciencie and experience in such matters, but by the meanes the same shold be ordered accordyng to all indyfferencie and equitye. Wherefore I have thought good (for that my sayd L^{ds} of the cownsayll do incline to favour the goodness of my sayd servantes suyte) very earnestly to desyre yow, that by your discretion and approved good consyderation, all possyble justyce may be aforded unto hym, and that he may enjoy the bennefyte of the sayd leas and demyse, according to the contents of ther L^{rs} sayd letters wherin, allthough I mistrust not of your integrety and uprightness, without any shew of partialyte to thadvers part, to the prejudice of my servaunt, yet did I judge it not impertinent to the cawse to crave your frendship and favour hearin ; for that hearby yow shall take occasyon to demaund a greater curtesye at my handes hereafter, and shall deserve great commendation for the travayll yow

shall sustayn in compowndyng of the difference, which as well my sellfe as my said servant shall indeuour to reqwytt. And thus referringg the determynation of the hole to your grave consyderation, I wyshe you very hartely well to fare. From the cowrtt at Rychemond thes of decemb. 1589.

Y^r very loveing Freind.

LETTER FROM THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE LORD MAYOR, &c.

[This is a curious original document (referred to in the preceding) shewing in what way the privy council of that day interfered in behalf of a favoured suitor, who was under the protection of a powerful nobleman. A course of this kind might possibly be necessary to secure justice to John Alleyn, because the Lord Mayor and Corporation were at all times adverse to actors. See "Hist. of Engl. Dram. Poetry and the Stage," i. 272, for documents which show that in this very year, 1589, Harte, the Lord Mayor, had evinced his strong hostility to theatres and to those engaged in them. What follows also establishes that Mrs. Browne, the mother of John, Edward, and William Alleyn, was dead in 1589.]

To our lovinge freinds Mr. Alderman Harte,
Mr. Alderman Bellingsley, Thomas Hunte,
and Humfrey Huntley, or to any three or
two of them.

After our hartie commendations. This enclosed petition hath been exhibited unto us by John Allen, servaunte to me the Lo. Admyrall, wherein he informeth us of verie hard and extreame dealing used against him by one Doctor Martin, who seeketh by indirecte meanes to make frustrate a lease of a certain tenement and garden demised by one John Roise to the suppliants father, mother, and himselfe, for divers years yet unexpired, uppon some sleight surmises of breach of covenantes by the suppliant, clayminge certaine right and tytle thereunto as executor unto the said Roise, notwithstandinge the expresse

mind and will of the testator was that the leases by him made should not be violated. Forasmuch as his said mother, (as he allegeth) did before her decease expend in building uppon the premisses the summe of 300 markes, and now, uppon some straight construction of doubtful wordes conteyned in his said lease, the said Doctor Martin seeketh to defeate and defraude him of the bennefytt and commodities which should redound to the suppliant by vertue of the said Lease. We have thought good therefore, and because the said D. Martin detayning in his custody the said lease taken from him by craftie meanes (as we are given to understand) the suppliant could not so well observe the tenour therof, and the covenantes which he was enjoyned by vertue of the same to performe, not knowing the contentes and strict interpretation therof, which he pretendeth for defaults therof to be now called in question, to pray and require you by vertue hereof to call before yow the said Martin, and to take such order for the reliefe of the Suppliant that he may not be by anie indirecte course oppressed, but, according to the purport of his lease, enjoy the bennefytt of his said graunt and lease, according to equity and conscience: and to certifie us with convenient speede what effecte your travell shall have taken in this behalfe. So we bid yow hartely farewell. From the Court at Nonesuche, the 14th of Julie 1589.

Your loving freindes,

EDWARD DYER.

C. HOWARD.

J. HUNSDON.

COBHAM.

T. BUCKHURST.

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

JAMES CROFT.

ALDERMAN HARTE.

ALDERMAN BILLINGSLEY.

THO. HUNTE.

HUMFREY HUNTLEY.

ARBITRATION BOND.

[The bond by which Dr. Martin engaged, under a penalty of £100, to submit to the award of the arbitrators, or umpire. John Allen, as we have seen, was an "Inholder" as well as an actor, and his inn-yard was probably the theatre where performances were represented.]

Noverent universi, &c. decimo quarto die Novembr. Anno
Dom. 1589.

The condition of this obligation is suche, that yf the above bounden Thomas Martyn do for his parte in all thinges observe, performe, fulfill, and kepe the awarde, arbitrament, order, rule, judgment, and fynall determynation of William Sallter, grocer, and Hughe Woodcock, salter, arbitrators indifferently named, appoynted, elected, and chosen, as well on the parte and behalfe of the above bounden Thomas Martyn, as also on the parte and behalfe of the above named John Allen, to arbitrate, awarde, order, rule, judge, and fynallye determyne of, for, and concerninge all and all manner of actions, aswell reall as personalle, suytes, quarrells, debtes, accomptes, reconinges, trespasses, and demaundes whatsoever, had, made, moved, stirred, or dependinge in variance betwene the said parties at any tyme from the beginninge of the worlde untyll the daye of the date hereof: so as their said awarde, arbitrament, order, rule, judgment, and fynall determynation, of and upon the premysses betwene the said parties, be made and given uppe in writinge before the Twelth daye of December next ensewinge the date of theis presentes. And yf the said arbitrators cannot agre nor none awarde do make of and upon the premysses betwene the parties within the said tyme before to them limmitted, then yf the above bounden Thomas Martyn do for his parte in all thinges observe, performe, fulfill, and kepe the awarde, arbitrament, order, rule, judgment, and finall determynation of William Drewry, doctor of the civill lawe, umpire of and upon the premysses betwene the said parties indifferently

named, appoynted, elected, and chosen, so as his said award or umpirement, of and uppon the premysses betwene the said parties, be made and given uppe in writinge before the one and twentieth daye of the said moneth of December, that then this obligation to be voyde and of none effecte, or ells to stande in full force, strength, and vertue.

By me, THO. MARTYN. (L. S.)

Sigill. et del. in presentia mei

JOHIS STODDARDE serv. cum

JACOBO SMYTHE de London generosus.

THEATRICAL DIALOGUE, IN VERSE.

[In the original MS. this dramatic dialogue in verse is written as prose, on one side of a sheet of paper, at the back of which, in a more modern hand, is the name "Kitt Marlowe." What connection, if any, he may have had with it, it is impossible to determine, but it was obviously worthy of preservation, as a curious stage-relic of an early date, and unlike any thing else of the kind that has come down to us. In consequence of haste, or ignorance on the part of the writer of the manuscript, it has been necessary to supply some portions, which are printed within brackets. There are also some obvious errors in the distribution of the dialogue, which it was not easy to correct. The probability is that, when performed, it was accompanied with music.]

Jack. Seest thou not yon farmers sonn ?

He hath stolne my love from me, alas !

What shall I doe ? I am undonn ;

My hart will neer be as it was.

Oh, but he gives her gay gold rings,

And tufted gloves [for] holly day,

And many other goodly things,

That hath stolne my love away.

Frend. Let him give her gaie gold rings,

Or tufted gloves ; weere they nere so [gay ;]

Or were her lovers lords or kings,
They should not carry the wench away.
But a' daunces wonders well,
And with his daunces stole her love from me.
Yett she wont to saie I bore the bell
For daunsing and for courtesie.

Jack. Fie, lusty younker ! what doe you heer,
Not daunsing on the greene to-day ?
For Perce, the farmer's sonn, I feare,
Is like to carry your wench away.
Good Dick, bid them all come hether,
And tell Perce from me, beside,
That if he think to have the wench,
Here he stands shall lie with the bride.

W. Fre. Fy, Nan ! why use thy old lover soe
For any other newcome guest ?
Thou long time his love did know ;
Why shouldst thou not use him best ?
Bonny Dick, I will not forsake
My bonny Rowland for any gold ;
If he can daunce as well as Perce,
He shall have my hart in hold.

Per. Why, then, my harts, letts to this geer,
And by dauncing I may wonn
My Nan, whose love I hold soe deere
As any realme under the sonn.

Frend. Then, gentles, ere I speed from hence,
I will be so bold to daunce
A turne or two, without offence ;
For, as I was walking along by chaunce,
I was told you did agree.

'Tis true, good sir, and this is she
Hopes your worship comes not to crave her,
For she hath lovers two or three,
And he that daunces best must have her.

Gen. How say you, sweet, will you daunce with me?
And you [shall] haue both land and [hill ;]
My love shall want nor gold nor fee.
I thank you, sir, for your good will ;
But one of these my love must be.
I'm but a homly countrie maide,
And farre unfitt for your degree.
[To daunce with you I am afraide.]

Fre. Take her, good sir, by the hande,
As she is fairest: were she fairer,
By this daunce you shall understand
He that can win her is like to ware her.

Foole. And saw you not [my] Nan to-day,
My mother's maide haue you not seene?
My pretty Nan is gone away
To seeke her love upon the greene.
[I cannot see her mong so many.]
She shall haue me, if she haue any.

Wen. Welcome, sweet hart, and welcome heer,
Welcom my [true] love now to me ;
This is my love, [and my darling dear,]
And that my husband [soon] must be.
And, boy, when thou comst home thou'lt see
Thou art as welcome home as he.

Gen. Why, how now, sweet Nan, I hope you jest.

Wen. No, by my troth, I love the foole the best.

And if you be jelous, god giue you good night ;
I feare you're a gelding, you caper so light.

Gen. I thought she had jested and ment but a fable,
But now doe I see she hath play[d] with his bable.
I wishe all my frends by me to take heede,
That a foole com not neere you when you mene to
speede.

SALE OF A CLOAK AND ROBE.

[An agreement for the sale by Isaac Burgess to John Alleyn, "citizen and inholder," of a cloak and robe, no doubt for the purpose of being worn on the stage. The price, £16, seems very high, recollecting the great difference in the value of money then and now: it affords another proof of how much was expended at this date upon theatrical apparel.]

Be yt knowen unto all men by theise presentes, that I, Isaacke Burges, of Cliffordes Inne, London, gent., for and in consideration of the somme of sixtene poundes of good and lawfull money of Englande, to me before hand payde by John Allene, Cytizen and Inholder of London, have bargaine and solde, and by theise presentes doe fully, clearelie, and absolutely bargaine, sell, and deliver unto the sayd John Allene, in playne and open market of or within the Cytty of London, one cloke of velvett, with a cape imbrothered with gold, pearles, and redd stones, and one roabe of cloth of golde: to have and to holde the sayd cloke and roabe, with thappurtenances, unto the sayde John Allene, his executors and assignes for ever, to the onely use and behoofe of the sayde John Allene, his executors or assignes for ever, as his and theire owne proper goodes and chattels. And I, the sayd Isaacke Burges, the sayd cloke and roabe againste all men shall and will warrante and defende for ever, by theise presentes. In witnes whereof, I have hereunto putt

my hande and seale the xxiiijth daye of November, in the xxxiiijth yere of the reigne of our soveraigne lady Quene Elizabeth, &c., 1590.

p me, ISAACUS BURGES.

Sealed and delivered in the presence
of me, JOHN DEANE, Scr.
JAMES TONSTALL.

THEATRICAL APPAREL.

[Here we see the brothers John and Edward Allyn buying a single cloak for no less a sum than £20 10s. 0d. At this date they were, no doubt, partners in some theatrical speculation. James Tonstall, or Tunstall, (for he spells his name both ways) was an actor, and, we may infer, was a member of the same company.]

Be yt knowen unto all men by theis presentes, that I, John Clyffe, of Ingatestone, in the countie of Essex, gentleman, for and in consideration of the somme of twentye poundes and Tenne shillynges of lawfull money of Englande, to me in hande before thenscaylinge hereof, by John Allen, Cytizen and Inholder of London, and Edwarde Allen, of London, gentleman, well and truly payed, whereof and wherewith I doe acknowledge me satisfied and pleased, haue bargayned and solde, and by theis presentes do bargayne and sell unto the sayde John Allen and Edwarde Allen, their executors and assignes, one blacke velvet cloake, with sleeves ymbrodered all with silver and golde, lyned with blacke satten stryped with golde. To haue and to holde the sayde prebargayned premisses, and euery parte and parcell thereof, unto the sayde John Allen and Edwarde Allen, and to either of them, their executors and assigns, from henceforth for evermore. And I, the sayde John Clyffe, for me, my executors and administrators, covenante and graunte to and with the sayde John Allen and Edwarde Allen, and either of them, their executors, administrators, and assigns, by theis presentes, that I, the sayde John Clyffe, my executors and admi-

nistrators, shall and will warrant and defende the sayde pre-bargayned premisses and euery parte thereof unto the sayde John Allen and Edwarde Allen, and either of them, their executors, administrators, and assignes, for ever by theis presentes. In witnes whereof hereunto I have set my seale. Yoven the sixte daye of Maye, 1591, and in the xxxiiijth yere of the reign of our sovereign Ladye Queene Elizabeth, &c.

By me, JOHN CLYFF. (L. S.)

Sealed, subscribed, and delivered

in the presence of me,

GODFREY RYNES, Scr.

By me, JAMES TUNSTALL.

THE DEFENCE OF TAILORS.

[It is difficult to account for the ensuing verses, unless we suppose them to have been penned in return for some attack made upon tailors and their trade upon the stage ; perhaps at a theatre with which Alleyn was connected. Possibly they were spoken by some clown of the company in the dress of a tailor, and are much such lines as Richard Tarlton would have composed on the sudden and blurted out on a similar occasion. They exist on a separate sheet of paper, are written in an ignorant hand, and are clearly of an early date.]

You pevish fooles of poetrey
That seek for to disgrace
The tayler and the taylers lades
That were within this place ;

But now, prowd fooles, 'tis knowne full well
They have confuted you,
And made you geve them that is fitt
Unto theyr prayses dew.

Your popery was for to playe
That taylors were no men,
But now I see your acte is torned
More true than it was then.

In deed it is ageynst theyr willes,
 As trewly you may saye,
 A prentice once being bownden fast,
 Then needes he must obay.

So is it now with you, prowde fooles,
 That all men here may see;
 For you are penny taylers geuefes;
 You thanke them on your kne.

And thus I hope I have not yett
 Offended anye here,
 But onley those prowde begging fooles
 That now doe bend for feare.

And this at last to let you know
 Our persones doe not feare
 To send this token unto you all
 To weare within your heare.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEBT.

[The following paper does not look as if, in July, 1591, John and Edward Alleyn (less than three months after they had given £20 10s. for a cloak) were in very flourishing circumstances: they required more than two months' credit for the payment of only fifteen shillings. The debt was, doubtless, incurred in connection with the theatre, or company of players, to which they belonged. John Alleyn is called "citizen and innholder," and Edward Alleyn, as before, "gentleman," a rank which players were allowed to assume. John Webster, the dramatic poet, was a member of the Merchant-tailors' Company; perhaps the John Webster mentioned below was his father.]

All men shall know by these presents that we, John Allein, cytyzen and Inholder, of London, and Edward Allein, of London, gentleman, do owe and ar indebted unto John Webster,

cytysen and merchauntayler of London, the somme of fyftene shyillynges of lawfull money of England, to be payed to the sayd John Webster, or his assygnés, on the last day of September next insewinge the date hereof, wherto wee binde us, our heyres and assygnés, by these presentes. Subscrybed this xxvth day of July, 1591, and in the xxxiii of her Ma^{ties} raygne.

JOHN ALLEIN.

ED. ALLEYN.

PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE.

[The following is a very singular letter from John Alleyn to a person of the name of Burne (possibly Bourne the actor), proposing for his daughter. It is written in a very ignorant manner, but in a high-flown style, and no doubt the writer obtained his knowledge of Paris and Helen, and of Ajax (which name he writes *Achakes*) from plays in which he had performed. No year is given, but John Alleyn dates from the Bear-garden, where he was, doubtless, then employed. The original is the property of Mr. Halliwell.]

Mr. Burne, my hartye commendats to you and to you wyefe, hoping in God that you and all youre is in as good helpe as I and my frends are att this tyme. The caues is why I write to you one thes haes his to let you understand, that I have hernelst besnes to you consarning your dather, and that is this, gife you be ples with the mater. I ame to let you understand that I bare good will to your dater, as a man should doe to get kredett by her; and nowe to the fulle I woulde crave your datter in marrige, iff you be so plesd; why I ryette to you first is as ouer London fashenges to in trete you that I may haue your good will and your wiefe, for gif we geate the father good will first, then may we bolle speke to the dather; for my possebelte is abel to mantayne her when I should that I should haue all my ounkell welthe to lef her, where itt so profite I should playe as Parres did by Hellene, dye for her. Rather

had take my fortune with that small posshene that itt is, which is abell to mantayne a good womman lovingly, but rather had I take hear with what ples God, then with some thousantes if you stane in nead of any thing I can put you in good secularity, and this to make her gointer of 24th a yere. If you should denie my sheute, which is but new begonne, I should play as Achakes did, kill him sealf with his one sord. I did hope that you would prove a good father to her and to me, iff you thinke your datter well bestode one me, so then doe I find comfort, as the dew of hevене dothe comfort the thinges one the earth, so will your letter comfort me. Tell I here your ansere I shall be like the Temes, which dueth ebe and flow twies in 24 oweres, never stanne still. Itt may be youe bete me gite her good will first, and then I should haue yours; butt I had rather you should doe as ould Tobias did by his sone, when he was blind, that was his blesing one his sone and his new betrothe wiefe. I do besheech you that you would stane a father to me, which has none. Some of your kinsmen, some of them that well stand by me, did incurrich me to rite to you thus bolld. Hopping you will stane my good father, as I hope you well be to me, I doe commite you to the hanes of the allmithe God, which I do pray to bles you and all your in Harford and in Londone. Thus in has I bed you far weill from the bare garden, thes 11 daye of June.

Your to command to his pore,
while lief dothe last, your
sone that wod be

JOHN ALLEYN.

Mr. Burne, remember your sone John of the whelpe which he did promes me, so hoping he his in good helpe which I praye for.

THE GILLS AND THE FORTUNE PLAYHOUSE.

[The ensuing copy of a letter, no doubt, relates in some way to the ground on which the Fortune playhouse was built, which Edward Alleyn bought of a family of the name of Gill. Patrick Brewe was also concerned in the bargain, as Alleyn gave him £240 for a lease of the property. The writer of this letter was a clergyman in the Isle of Man, and is called "Sir William Crowe" in the indorsement, in the same way as he speaks of "Sir Daniel" in his letter. "Sir" was a title at that date usually given to clergymen, as well as to knights.]

[Addressed]

To my approved good cossene, M. Patricke
Brewe, goldsmythe, and citizene off London,
dwellinge in Lombard Streat, at the
sygne off the Eagle and Child, geve thesse.

(Vera Copiæ.)

Havinge had perfect intelligence off your prosperite in your layte letter sent by younge Gyll, w^{ch} I praye to the Almighty longe to conteneuwe to your contentatione, and the expectatione off your wellwyllers and poore kynsmen, off whosse number I protest unfayngnedly to be on, and I humblie thanke your goodnes ffor your lovinge commendations, &c.

Where you wryte unto me your mynd concerninge Gyll his matter in his lyvinge at Londone to be indifferent, and to drawe all parties to suche unitie as Lawers might not have the correctione of theyr pursstes, so yt is for mine none parte that I would have justyce, who geveth his owne to everey man, to proceed: I ought to remember our mortall stayte, and not be oblivious of our immortalitie. The truth ys that ould Gyll dyd demysse, and by all sufficient covenantes that could be devysed, or might be by promysse, unto his sonne Sr. Daniell, and to the issues off his bodye, the whooll lyvinge after his and his wyves deceasse, as appeareth by wryttynges; and to confirme the same gave season and possessione by you unto his said

sonne, to the intente his demysse might be more surely accomplished.

And now wheare conscience and good meaninge wyllleth that no man should be defrawd of his bargane, I find in ould Gyll a great desyre that the poore orphanes should not have, nor posses that lyvinge accordinge to his promysse; but pretendeth a righte therof to his other childrene, w^{ch} I cane not lyke well off, bayth for that yt is contrarye to bargane, as also agaynst the poore orphanes of a spirituall man, whiche poore childrene havinge there guyfte of that livinge, may preferre some kinsman off yours and my best beloved. Therffore, I wold crave off you to be cayrefull herein, and to geve possessione and seassone unto the childrene as hearetoffore you have geven unto there ffather, which I take to be conscience and indifferencie, and prejudiciall in lawe to no partie, seyinge they are executrixes to there ffather, Sr. Daniell, and the wyll proved. Where objectione ys mayd agaynst there mother concerninge the dead of guyfte and other devysses, I knowe yt is all donne ffor the childrens welth: she intendeth naturally to deall, and ys nowe married to a better lyveyng. For the present tyme thus much off that matter, earnestly cravyng once agayne off you, consyderinge my intention to be more then indyfferent, (viz.) to preferre your owne rather then a straunger, and nothinge donne amysse nor contrarye to justyce, ffor he mayd yt to the poore childrene. As for an acquyttance to be had for your last rent payd to Mr. Ellys, the Archdeacone ys in England, and Mr. Ellys ys at London: get you an acquyttance from Mr. Ellys, and I wyll procure on from the Archdeacon. Thus with a thowsand blessinges and comendations to you and your bedfellowe, and all other our dear ffrendes, I ceasse this xijth of January, 1592.

Your lovinge Cossene to usse in that he may,

W^m. CROWE,
persone:

ENGLISH PLAYERS ABROAD.

[The following is a curious letter: the writer, it appears, belonged to a company of English actors who were going to perform abroad, thus adding to the imperfect information we already possess upon the point from Heywood's "Apology for Actors." See the Reprint by this Society, p. 58, and a few other sources. Malone (Shaksp. by Boswell, xxi., 396) was in possession of a copy of this letter, but it does not seem that he was aware of its importance in connection with the history of our early stage. Several persons of the name of Jones were connected with the stage at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries, but we have here no clue to a date. "Mr. Browne" might be some connection of Alleyn.]

Mr Allen, I commend my love and humble duty to you, geving you thanks for yo^r great bounty bestoed upon me in my sicknes, when I was in great want: god blese you for it. Sir, this it is, I am to go over beyond the seeas w^t Mr Browne and the company, but not by his meanes, for he is put to half a shaer, and to stay hear, for they ar all against his going: now, good Sir, as you have ever hyne my worthie frend, so helpe me now. I have a sute of clothes and a cloke at pane for three pound, and if it shall pleas you to lend me so much to release them, I shall be bound to pray for you so longe as I leve; for if I go over, and have no clothes, I shall not be esteemd of; and, by gods help, the first mony that I gett I will send it over unto you, for hear I get nothinge: some tymes I have a shillinge a day, and some tymes nothinge, so that I leve in great poverty hear, and so humbly take my leave, prainge to god, I and my wiffe, for yo^r health and mistris Allene's, which god continew.

Yo^r poor frend to command,

RICHARD JONES.

THREAT TO ALLEYN.

[It appears from what follows, that the writers, Wheeler, Lowe, and Handcock, had sustained some disappointment by Almeyn's means, and that he was at that time (no date is furnished) in want of a considerable sum of money. The Lord Keeper mentioned in the letter, to whom the parties threatened to complain, was of course Sir Thomas Egerton, afterwards created Lord Ellesmere, Lord Chancellor to James I.]

[Addressed]

To Mr. Edward Almeyn, Esq.

Sr.

If you forsake us in such distastfull fassion now we have most need of you, you will absolutly overthroughe the busines to the great losse and prejudice of a many creditors. It is not unknowne to you that we bergened with you, and relyed upon your former promise till the last day, by which means our unconscionable adversarye hath obtayned a great deale of advantage, which we doe not know how to oppose without your promised assistance; in which you diverse tymes profest much charetye, which we should be glad to find, and which cannot any way be to your prejudice, if you please rightly to consider thereof. Well, we hope farther yett of you, but if there be none, then we all shall have cause to say, and that verie justly, that your suspending the tyme is cause of all the ruine that is like to fall upon this busines. If you want the 1000^{li} at present, you may have it now upon reasonable security. If you will not go forwards with us, we must lett my lord Keeper know tomorrow how, and by your meanes, we are crossed in this busines; and so god keepe you:

Y^{rs}, AMB. WHEELER.

GEORGE LOWE.

GEORGE HANDCOCK.

If you will take it from the Alderman,
we will redeeme ytt for you in 3, six
monthes, or els you shall have ytt
for what you have offred.

LOVE VERSES.

[It is evident that what follows is a copy of love-verses, much corrupted in the transcription by some ignorant hand, who sadly mangled most of the lines. We do not recollect any printed work in which they are found, and they were perhaps incorrectly copied from some original manuscript by an author of that day.]

Can she excuse my wronges with vertuous cloke?

Shall I call her good, when she proves so unkinde?

Shall those cleare fires vanish into smoke?

Shall I praise the leafes wher no frut I find?

No, no; wher shadowes do for bodyes stande,

Thou mayes be deseved yf thy lite be dime.

Could love is like to words written in sand,

Or to bubbels which upon the water swime.

Wilt thou be thus deluded still,

Seinge that she will right thee never?

Yf thou canst not overcom her will,

Thy love wilbe but frutles ever.

Was I so base that I might not aspire

Unto those high joyes which she holds so from me?

As they ar hy, so hy is my desire.

Yf she this deny, what may graunted be?

Or yf that she will graunt to that which reson is,

It is resons will that trewe love should be just.

Deare, make me happi, then, by graunting this,

Or cut of my days, yf so be dy I must.

Better a thousand times to dy, then for to live thus still tormented.

Deare, but remember it was I that for thy love did dy contented.

FINIS. 1596.

LETTER TO EDWARD ALLEYN.

[In the "Memoirs of Edward Allevyn," p. 50, is printed a letter dated 26 September, 1598, directed to Allevyn at the Brill (or Broyle), in Sussex, which probably soon brought him to London: the following, from John Langworth, (who was most likely the son of Arthur Langworth, with whom Allevyn and his wife had been staying) was written to Allevyn in London in the February following, and it shows not only that Allevyn was about to purchase property in Sussex, but that he had advanced so much money to young Langworth, that the latter was more willing to grant an annuity upon it, than to pay it off. The original, like several others, is among Mr. Halliwell's MSS.]

[Addressed]

To my verye good frend, Mr. Edward Aleynne,
at London, geve these.

M. Aleynne, by meanes of a mischaunce that I caught, which kepte me within doores, and a speciall man that I desyred to talke with beinge from home since I could goe, I have done little in the busynes you desyred, but only this: I understand that it is worth by the yeare, yf corne beare any good price, fowre score pounds, but the perticulars of the state of the thinge I will send you worde of by the nexte convenient messenger I can have, yf it require hast.

I would gladly knowe whether you would be willinge to take a yearely annuetie of me for the money I have of yours, or not? for I had rather paye you a yearely rent, either for certaine yeares, or duringe youre lyfe, hopinge you will be reasonable, then to paye the money at this tyme; for that I would gladly prepare myselfe, with all the speede I could, to goe to house keepinge. Yf you lyke to deale this waye, I will not be longe ere I come to you to take order about it: yf not, I will tarrye untill the tyme of your payment, and bringe your money with me. Thus desyringe youre answere, with oure hartye coñ. to youre selfe and your wyfe, I leave you to the Allmightye. From the Broyle, this 21 Februari, 1598.

Yours assured frend,

JOHN LANGWORTH.

THE CONQUEST OF THE WEST INDIES.

[The following note and the next relate to a play called "The Conquest of the West Indies," which, according to Henslowe's Diary, was written by William Haughton, John Day, and Wentworth Smith. Samuel Rowley had perhaps been commissioned by Henslowe to hear it and report upon it.]

Mr. hinchloe, I have harde fyve sheetes of a playe of the Conquest of the Indes, and .I dow not doute but it will be a verye good playe: tharefore, I praye ye delyver them fortye shyllinges In earneste of it, and take the papers into y^r one hands, and on easter eve thaye promyse to make an ende of all the reste.

SAMUEL ROWLEY.

lent the 4 of Ap^rell, 1601—xxxx^o.

Mr. Hynchlye, I praye ye dow so muche for us, if Ihon Daye and wyll haughton have reseved but thre pounde ten shyllinges, as to delyver them thurtye shyllinges more, and take thare papers.

y^{o^r} to comande,

SAMUELL ROWLYE.

THE SIX YEOMEN OF THE WEST.

[This play belongs to the year 1601, and we do not find that any other authors were engaged upon it but Haughton and Day. Day, in the annexed note, desires that his share of the money should be given to "Will Hunt, the pedlar," and not to "Will Haughton," as it stands misprinted in Malone's Shakspeare by Boswell, xxi., 392.]

Mr. Henschlowe, I pray ye delyver the Reste of the Monye to John daye and wyll hawton, dew to them of the syx yemen of the weste.

SAMUELL ROWLYE.

[The above note was written on a scrap of paper, which at the back of it has the following lines in the handwriting of John Day; no doubt a part of some play then in hand. Malone took no notice of them.]

Brother, they would be rulers of our state,
 Yet both infected with a strange disease
 And mortall sicknes, proud abylytie
 Which being vast, and almost measureless
 Had they not been prevented, might have provde
 Fatall and dangerous. Then, since their death
 Hath, like a skilfull artist, cur'd that feare
 Which might have prov'd so hurtfull to our selves,
 Lets to the Court instead, and after send
 Their wretched wives —— their bodies to the grave ;
 For the dead Percy had a gallant band,
 And glad has my pursuers left behinde.

I have occasion to be absent about the plott of the Indydes,
 therefore pray delyver it to Will Hunt, the Pedler

by me, JOHN DAYE.

BEN JONSON'S "RICHARD THE THIRD."

[With the date of 22d of June, 1602, Malone inserts a memorandum by Henslowe, showing that Ben Jonson was then engaged on a play called "Richard Crook-back." Shaw's note to Henslowe, inserted below, does not seem to refer to this play ; but the memorandum at the back of it obviously relates to a sketch of five scenes of one of the acts of a drama on the story of Richard the Third, which very possibly was that which Ben Jonson had undertaken to write. It was printed in Mal. Shakspeare by Boswell, xxi. 393, but most inaccurately and imperfectly.]

Mr. Henslowe, we have heard their booke, and lyke yt: their price is eight pounds, w^{ch} I pray pay now to Mr. Wilson according to our promysse. I would have come my selfe, but that I am trobled with a scytation.

Yo^r ROBT. SHAA.

[On the back of this paper]

1. See. W^m Wor. and Ansell, and to them the plowghmen.

2. See. Richard and Q Eliza. Catesbie, Lovell, Rice ap Tho. Blunt, Banester.
3. See. Ansell, Denys, Hen. Oxf. Courtney, Bouchier, and Grace. To them Rice ap Tho. and his Soldiers.
4. See. Milton. Ban. his wyfe and children.
5. See. K. Rich. Catesb. Lovell, Norf. Northumb. Percy.

JOHN OF GAUNT.

[Entries in Henslowe's Diary show that the full title of this play was "The Conquest of Spain by John of Gaunt," and that it was the joint authorship of Richard Hathway, John Day, and William Haughton. It belongs to the spring of 1601.]

Mr. hynchlo, I pray ye let Mr. hathwaye have his papars a gayne of the playe of John a gante, and for the repayement of the monye back a gayne he ys contente to gyve ye a byll of his hande to be payde at some cartayne tyme, as yn yo^r dyscressyon yow shall thinke good; w^{ch} done ye may crose it oute of yo^r boouke and keepe the byll, or else wele stande so muche indetted to you, and keepe the byll o^r selves.

SAMUELL ROWLYE.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

This play (also called in Henslowe's Diary "The Poor Northern Man") must have been founded upon the old ballad reprinted by the Percy Society, in 1841. Henry Chettle, Richard Hathway, and Wentworth Smith were the writers of the play.]

I pray you, Mr. Henslowe, deliver in behalfe of the Company, unto the fifty Shillings w^{ch} they receaved the other day, three pounds and tenn shillings more, in full payment of six pounds, the pryce of their play called to good to be true.

Yo^r ROBT. SHAA.

FAIR CONSTANCE OF ROME.

[This play was by Robert Wilson, as well as by Munday, Hathway, Drayton, and Dekker, to whom Malone assigned it, under date of June, 1600. Hence we find that the price paid by Henslowe for a new play, at this date, was £6. In a previous note, p. 24, we have seen that £8 were required for some unnamed drama.]

I pray you, Mr Hinchlow, deliver unto the bringer hereof the some of fyve and fifty shillings, to make the 3^l fyve shillings, w^{ch} they receaved before, full six pounds, in full payment of their booke called the fayre Constance of Roome; whereof, I praye you, reserve for me Mr. Willsons whole share, w^{ch} is xi^s, w^{ch} I, to supply his neede, delivered him yesternight.

Yor Lovinge freind

ROBT. SHAA.

COMMISSION FOR THE BEAR GARDEN.

[The subsequent receipt proves that in January, 1601-2, Henslowe and Alleyn paid £40 per annum to Doryngton, then Master of the King's Games of Bulls, Bears, &c., for a commission to them as his deputies at Paris Garden. Malone thought that the rent of the Bear Garden was £40 a year; but this sum was paid, not as rent to the owner of the property, but for the permission of Doryngton to employ it for the purposes to which it was then, and had been for so many years, devoted. We hear of Paris Garden, as a place where bears were baited, in 1526.]

Rd of Mr. Henslowe and Mr. Alleyn the 1 day of Janewary, 1601, for 1 quarters rent, dewe unto my Mr., Mr. Doryngton, for the commission for the Beargarden, the somme of tenne pounds, by me, Richard Lefwicke, I say R. x^{li}.

RICHARD X LEFWICKES marck.

ALLEYN'S INCREASING PROSPERITY.

[This letter, and the answer to it on the same sheet, establish the increasing wealth of Edward Alleyn. He was the landlord of the person he addresses at Croxted; and perhaps this was the property he contemplated purchasing in February, 1589-9. Hence we also find that he was in treaty for other property, consisting of land, for which he was to pay £1300, a sum equal to more than £6000 of our present money. At this date, 1602, the Fortune Theatre had been recently opened, and no doubt the speculation was found very profitable. The original belongs to Mr. Halliwell.]

[Addressed]

To my loving Frend, Mr. Page, at Croxted,
geve this.

[Re-addressed]

To his loving good Frynd, Mr. Edward Al-
leyn, thes be delyvered.

Wheras I thought to see you agayne in a fortnight, I know not as yett how my bussines will fall out, but yett go forward with that we talk of, although since I have heard itt hath been long upon the sale, the thing to be very baren, and no better then a hard penyworth is to be look for; but, howe soever, what you have donn, and how you think of itt, I praye you send me word. Thus with my harty salutations I committ you to god. London, this 15 of July, 1602.

Yor loving Frend and Landlord,

ED. ALLEYN.

Mr. Alleyn and my good Landlord, thes ar to answer your leter. I have delt with Mr. Sherley, accordyng as I promysed you, and have the forsakyng of the land for xiiij dayes for 1300^u., and I thinke it wort the mony and a good penworth, for I think the land will be worth lxxx^u. a yere, and it is manor, and the wod worth 200 markes. This must be presently answered. I woulde a byn glad to a sene you and my landladye at my house. This, with my hertie comendasyon, I comyt you

to god. From Croxstedes, this xvijth of Juley. Yours to com-
maund to his power,

JOHN PAGE.

For want of paper I ham forsed to anwar you in your owne
leter.

ALLEYN'S PROJECTED PURCHASE IN SUSSEX.

[The ensuing letter is misdated 1640, instead of 1604, and it is from Alleyn's tenant, John Page, and relates, as far as we can judge, to the same property referred to in the preceding letter. We here find that it was a manor called Riches in the letter, near to Firle, the living of which Alleyn at one time was the owner.]

[Addressed]

To his verye good Frend, Mr. Edward Al-
lene, thes be delyvered, nere to Sanctuaris
stayres.

Landlord, my loving comendasyons unto you remembred.
Thes ar to let you under stand that I have talked with Sr John
Sherley for you, tuching the purchsing of the manar of Riches.
If it be so that you purpose to by it, I praye you let me heare
from you, for I think it will be sould to Mr. Warnat, if you
have it not. It lyeth well to the personage of Fyrles. You
wryt to me that you would have it: if you plesse you may.
Ther is a tenement, and iij barns, and 300 acars of land ther
aboutes: the wod is wort 200 markes at the lest. It is a
manor, and there is viij or ix tenantes payeth heryates and re-
lefe. This is as much as I can geve you to understand of. If
you do dele for it, ther muste be paid 200^{li}. this terme. I praye
you writ unto me your mynd her in by this Bearer; and so I
commit you to god. From Croxstedes, this xxvijth of Janu-
arye, 1640 (i.e., 1604). Yours to his pour,

JOHN PAGE.

A MUSICAL DIALOGUE.

[The subsequent dialogue between a man and a boy is probably a theatrical relic, which was formerly set to music and sung. It has been evidently much corrupted in the transcript, which was made by some very ignorant person. Judging from such scraps as have come down to us, the copyists of our old theatres must have been generally very incompetent to the duty, and miserably mangled the manuscripts of authors. We are not sure that we have not met with something like this poem in one of the miscellanies of the time.]

Man. It fell upon a sollem holledaye,

Boye. Woe me, that the day should be termed holey.

Man. When idell wittes had gotten leave to play.

Boye. Such play ill please the mind that's wean'd from folly.

Man. The lettell god that hyght the mighty man,

Boye. Woe me, such a god should be termed mighty.

Man. Sweet love, that all in all things only can,

Boye. That all is naught but things regarded lightly.

Man. In royall state, in all his mother's pryde,

Boye. Woe me, foles pryde should be termed royall.

Man. Thus in the ayre methought I saw him ryde.

Boye. Ayre to unkind to beare a god disloyall.

Man. White was the steed the jolly lad rode on ;

Boye. Woe me, such a lad should have cullers pure.

Man. Droppinges of grene and stars of gould among ;

Boye. Dim stars are those that will with love indure.

Man. Upon his head a flowry garland stode,

Boye. Woe me, suche a god should weare daintie flowres.

Man. Woven with cowslips, pinkes, and lillies good :

Boye. Good judgement them behight for princes bowres.

Man. Silver his haire, in curls, and curled rounde,

Boye. Woe me silver should be loved so derely.

Man. And at his back two pecookes traines were bound.

Boye. Pide cullers show that love is wittles merely.

Man. And in his cheekes two lovely roses sprang ;

Boye. Woe me, roses should in love be springing.

Man. On either side an ivory quiver hang ;

Boye. From thens the springes of toyes had their beginning.

Man. His arme was armed with a bowe of steele ;

Boye. Woe me that he wants parfett skill to use it.

[*Man.*] And knightly spurs fast buckled to his heele.

[*Boye.*] A good thing is bad, if such a god abuse it.

[*Man.*] And as he rode, before him flew amayne

[*Boye.*] Woe me, if good things were by him oretaken.

[*Man.*] Millions of hartes that his steele bowe had slayne.

[*Boye.*] Well they deserve death that by him ar beaten.

[*Man.*] Thicker then hayle he lett his arrows flye,

[*Boye.*] Woe me, if such stormes should be ever showing.

[*Man.*] Till gazing long one light within mine eie.

[*Boye.*] Fond fool, that couldst not scape that balefull scowring.

[*Man.*] Yet though I greve, this toye doth heale my wounde.

[*Boye.*] Woe me, what toye can there be in anguish.

[*Man.*] More fooles then wyse ones yerely are to be founde.

[*Boye.*] Fooles all that liste in love to live and languish.

FINIS.

ANNE POYNTZ TO ALLEYN.

[In the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," p. 77, is inserted a letter from John Poyntz, of Woodhatch, dated March 6, 1605. It is very probable that the writer of what follows was some relation to him, in poor circumstances: he might even be her husband, of whom she complains, desiring Alleyn's advice upon the subject. He seems always to have been a kind neighbour and a good friend.]

[Addressed]

To her very loving frend, Edward Allin, es-
quyer, geve thes w. speed.

Good Mr. Allin. I have ever found you my good kind frend hetherto, and which makes me the boulder with you in my adversity to request so much loving kindenes att your hands to lende me v pounds untyl our lady day next, and then, as I am an honyst pore womman, I will trewly pay you: farther more, I desier you to com to me, that I may speak with you conserning my unkind husband. This being in hast, I rest and ever remayne

Your pore frend,

ANNE POYNTZ.

I pray comend me to good M^r. Allin,
and my love to all that loves you.

BULLS FOR PARIS GARDEN.

[An undated letter, showing the nature of Alleyn's transactions in the country, in order to obtain bulls for baiting at Paris Garden, (spelt by the writer Palles Garden) which we learn from the same authority had "lofts" above the baiting-yard, as well as "grates" to protect the spectators. The letter, which is the property of Mr. Halliwell, is a remarkable specimen of rustic writing, orthography, and phraseology.]

[Addressed]

To mey Verey Loving frend, Mr. Allin, at
the Palles Garden at London, give thes.

Mr. Allin, mey love remembered. I understoode bey a man which came with too Beares from the gardeyne, that you have

a deseyre to bey one of mey Boles. I have three westorne boles at thes tyme, but I have had verey ell loeck with them, for one of them hath lost his horne to the queyck, that I think that hee will never bee able to feyght agayne; that is mey ould star of the west: hee was a verey esey bol; and my Bol, Bevis, he hath lost one of hes eyes, but I think if you hed him hee would do you more hurt then good, for I protest I think hee would other throo up your dodges in to the loftes, or eles ding out theare braynes ageanst the grates, so that I think hee is not for your turne. Besydes, I esteeme him verey hey, for my lord of Rutlandes man bad mee for him xx marches. I have a bol which came out of the west, which standes mee in twentey nobles. If you so did leyck him, you shall have him of mey: faith, hee is a marvailous good Boole, and shuch a on as I think you have had but few shuch, for I aseure you that I hould him as good a doble bole as that which you had amee last a single, and one that I have played therty or fourty coursse before he hath bene tacken from the stacke, with the best dodges which halfe a dosen freyghtes had. If you send a man unto mee he shall see any of mey boles playe, and you shall have any of them (def. in MS.) refor, if the will plesoure you. Thus bidding you hartely farewell, I end,

Your louing friend,

WILLIAM FAWNTE.

GATHERERS AT THEATRES.

[The writer of this note had been an actor before the close of the sixteenth century: it has no date, but it was probably written before Alleyn had quitted the profession. It is unique in its kind, and lets us very curiously behind the curtain in the management of our old companies. We hear on no other authority of John Russell, either as gatherer, actor, or in any other capacity. The original is in the possession of Mr. Halliwell.]

Sir,

There is one Jhon Russell, that by youre apoyntment was made a gatherer with vs, but my fellowes finding [him

often] falce to vs, haue many tymes warnd him from taking the box ; and he as often, with moste damnable othes, hath vowde neuer to touch : yet, notwithstanding his execrable othes, he hath taken the box, and many tymes moste vnconsionablye gatherd, for which we haue resolud he shall neuer more come to the doore. Yet, for your sake, he shall haue his wages, to be a nessessary atendaunt on the stage, and if he will pleasure himself and vs to mend our garments, when he hath leysure, wee will pay him for that to. I pray send vs word if this motion will satisfye you ; for him, his dishonestye is such we knowe it will not.

Thus yealding ourselues in that and a farr greater matter to be comaunded by you, I committ you to God.

Your loving frend to comaund,

W. BIRDE.

To his loving frend, Mr. Allin, giue these.

W. BIRDE'S NECESSITIES.

[We might, perhaps, assign an earlier date to the following urgent claim for a loan from Henslowe to the same performer. The note at the foot, signifying that Henslowe had paid the money to Birde's servant, is in a different handwriting.]

Mr. Hinchlowe, I pray let me intreate you to lende me forty shillings till the next weeke, and Ile then paye it you agayne by the grace of God. I pray, as you love me, fayle me not : here is one at home must receave it presently. If you will doe me this favour, you shall comaunde me in a greater matter.

Yours,

WILL. BIRDE.

Feched by William Felle, his man.

SEIZURE OF A BEAR.

[It should appear, by what follows, that Henslowe and Alleyn had taken possession of a bear belonging to a person of the name of Ashmore : perhaps he had employed it for bear-baiting to the injury of Henslowe and Alleyn, who claimed some exclusive rights as Deputy Masters of the King's Games of Bulls, Bears, &c. Henry Middleton was perhaps one of the sons of Sir Thomas Middleton.]

[Addressed]

To the wo^u and my verie good Frend Mr.
Edward Allen Esq. be these dd.

Mr. Allen. Wheras yow have taken a Beare from the bearer hereof, Henrie Ashmore, my frend, I pray you lett him have his beare againe at my request, till you be further satisfied from Sr Tho. Middleton, who is now in Wales. And I shall rest beholding to yow for your kindnes. This 9th of March, 1608.

Your loving Frend
HENRY MIDDLETON.

Beleave this to be trew by the same token
I mett yow lately in Lothbury, and
saluted you.

GROUND-RENT OF THE FORTUNE.

[This letter relates to some dispute respecting the ground on which the Fortune Theatre had been erected. We have before seen (p. 17) that differences had arisen between adverse claimants. The writer was Vicar-General of the Isle of Man.]

[Addressed]

To our very lovinge ffrende Mr. Edward
Alleyne esquier at London geve these.

Mr. Allane, as unaquanted wee commend us unto yow, &c.
Wheras wee are credably enformed that you hould certen landes

att London, wherof the one halfe is due to our children, and the halfe of the rent is due unto us, duringe the lyfe of my wyffe, as itt may appeere by our evidences : wee are therfore to desyre yow to doe so muche for us as to paye our halfe rent into the handes of our Cozin, Mr. Patricke Brewe, whome we have auctorized to receave and to geue acquittance for the same ; and further wee request you nott to delyver our said rent into the handes of no maner person or persons, but to us or our lawful attourney ; for wee are not willing to receave our rent att the handes of noe man ells but from yourselfe who doith hould the land by our leasse ; and if our said rent should passe your handes, and from hande to hande, wherby wee or our children may come to trouble for our owne, itt may bee an occation for us to put those landes with their evidences into their handes that will deale more stricklier then we meane or intende to do ; butt if you please to deale well with us and to delyver our rentes to our attourneys, if the children bee at any tyme willinge to so sell or sett to anie manne, you may haue an offer before any other. The bearer herof cann certifye you how that lande standeth, and for your better understandinge we haue sent to you a copie of an awarde ordered for the children concerning those landes. And thus hopeinge you will accomlishe this our requestes, wee comitt you to Godes tuition. From Douglas, in the Isle of Manne, this first of June in Ao. Dñ., 1608.

Your lovinge frendes in that
they maye to their powers.

WILLM. NOREIS,

Vic. geñall.

ELIZABETHE NOREIS,

her marke X.

BREW TO ALLEYN.

[Another letter connected with the same subject. No year is given after the day of the month, but the next letter ascertains it to have been written in December, 1608. Brew was at this date living in the Isle of Man.]

[Addressed]

To my very good Frend, Mr. Edwarde
Allen, esquyere gyve this in London.

Mr. Allen, youre healthe wished et c^a. I dyd sende to youe bye my wyffe those wrytinges I promysed youe: I pray youe kepe them saffe. It is reported here that youe or Mr. Garrett have payde the rent of Gylles land, dwe in Maye laste, into the Chekker. I praye youe lett me knowe from youe by this bearer howe the matter standes for the rente. It is also reported that Garrett hath offredd thre hundrethe poundes for the lande. The yong women and the reste are willinge to sell, nowe that there mother is deade. The eldeste of Gylles sonns was att Chester, intending to go for London at halantye, and hearinge of the sicknes camm home agayne, butt I thinke he will go agayne at the springe. Thus, with my verye hartye commendatjons to youre selfe and to good mystris Allen, do commytt youe to God. Douglas, this 8 of December.

Youre lovinge Frende,

PATRICKE BREWE.

DISPUTES BETWEEN THE GILLS.

[At this date Alleyn seems to have entertained the design of buying the freehold of the ground on which the Fortune Theatre stood from the Gills, who had family disputes regarding the property.]

[Addressed]

To Mr. Edwarde Allen, esquyre, gyve this,
nere unto pallace garden, withe spede.

Mr. Allen youre healthe wished. I have written to youe in december laste, but whether my letter cam to youre handes or

no I am uncertayne. This is to certefye youe that the Gylles, and the dawghters of Gill deseased, cannott agree uppon the sayle as yett, and yett theye would sell, and yett theye strayne curtesye who shall begynn. I would have sente to you the writings whiche I dyd promys to sende to youe, but I can nott meete with a trustye messenger to sende them bye; as also to write unto youe sum other thinges whiche I dare nott put to writtinge, except I knewe him very well, and to be verye trustye too, for they are thinges youe littell thinke of; but eyther I wilbe messenger my selfe or sum other trustye and spetyall frende, for oure letters are commonlye opened comynge or goinge: butt assure youre selfe that you shall have them God willinge. Thus with my verye hartye comendatyons to your selfe and to good Mrs. Allen, with many thankes for all kyndnes, do committ youe to the tultyon of the most hyghest, who ever kepe you, amen. This 6 of aprill, 1609. Your verye lovinge frende to his power,

PATRICKE BREWE.

THE VICAR-GENERAL OF MAN.

[On p. 34 is a letter from William Norris, Vicar-General of the Isle of Man: his wife died in July, 1609, leaving her husband entitled to a share of the ground-rent of the Fortune. Patrick Brew here requests Alleyn to pay it on behalf of the widower.]

[Addressed]

To my approved good Frende, Mr. Edwarde Allen, esquier, gyve this withe spede.

Mr. Allen, your healthe wished, these are to lett youe understand that god hath called to his mercye my cozin Norris his wyffe, and she was buryed the xxvth of Julye last past. The rente is dwe unto her husbände for this laste yeere, dwe at may laste, praigne youe of all frendshippe to paye unto the bearer here of, John More, the sayde summ of vj^{li}, and youe

shall receyve an aquytance from my Cozin Norrys for it. I am a wyttnes unto the saide aquyttance, my selffe praing youe of all frendship to paye this monye, as my spetyall truste is in youe. I have sente youe accordinge to my promys, and my wyffe will tell youe other thinges which I spare from writinge. Thus with my verye hartye commendatyons to your selffe and to good Mrs. Allen, do comytt youe to god. Dowglas, this 3 of Auguste, 1609. Your lovinge Frende, to his power,

PATRICKE BREWE.

Poste Scriptum. I praye you se the bearer hereof payde, for he hath payde the monye here in the contrye to my Cozin Norris. Youres ever,

PATRICKE BREWE.

ACROSTIC UPON HENSLOWE.

[Of the author of the ensuing acrostic upon Philip Henslowe (or Hinslie, as the writer spells the name) we know nothing, and the style of his verses, as well as the form in which they appear, would show that he was not calculated to reach any very lofty height in the regions of poetry.]

The name of Phillip Hinslie, Gentelman, litterallie set downe in verse uppon those three especiall poyntes, his love to God, his Prince and countrie.

To God.

P rovident cheifelie gods worde to imbrace,
H opinge by the same salvation to obtayne ;
I ndowed plentifullye with all giftes of grace,
L ove, zeale, and charitie, in his harte remayne,
L ikewise resolved man's meritts to be vayne ;
I esus Christe, his savior, he trewlie doth love,
P ure in faithe, whiche no stormes can remove.

H e is moste carefull his roiall Princes to sarve
I n love and dutie, as he thereunto is bounde ;

N ever from allegiance hathe he sought to swarve,
 S o faithefull and constante he hathe bene founde, To his Prince.
 L oiallie provinge in all poyntes a member moste sounde ;
 I njuriose villaynes and traytors he hathe disdayned,
 E ver charie of credditt, whose name was never stayned.

G even and preste to pleasure his countrie like case,
 E ver willinge for the same his derest bloode to spende :
 N ot quarrellinge nor contentiose, but peace imbrace,
 T hat to his power still is prest the same to defende, To his
 E ver sekinge by industrie contentions to ende. Country.
 L ovinge, gentle, and affable, both to ritche and pore,
 M oste willinge his counsell and comforte to bestowe—
 A nd God with his grace duilie blesseth his store :
 N one better then this cittie his dealings doth knowe,
Sit sola laus deo.

A prayer for your selfe and your godlie and vertuose wife,
 speakeinge in the terms of a gardiner.

Plante, lorde, in them the tree of godlie life,
 Hedge them aboute with thie stronge fence of faith,
 And, if it thee please, use eke thy proinyng knife ;
 Leaste that (O lorde), as a good gardiner saithe,
 If suckers drawe the sappe from bowes on hie,
 The toppe of tree in tyme perhapps maye die :
 Lett, lorde, this tree be sett within thy garden wall
 Of parradise, where growes no one ill sprigg at all.

FINIS.

Your affectionate and hertie well willer,
 RIC HARDE WILLIAMS.

ALLEYN'S BILL IN CHANCERY.

[In the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," p. 82, it is shown that the founder of Dulwich College was Lord of the Manor of Dulwich, in 1606, by purchase from Sir Francis Calton. On p. 94 of the same work is inserted a letter from Calton to Alleyn, proving that they were on good terms up to the 9th of May, 1611, Alleyn having made many pecuniary advances to Calton. The following bill was filed in Chancery on the 27th May, 1611, from which it is evident that a quarrel had taken place between the 9th and the 27th May. Alleyn then apprehended that Calton was taking secret measures to re-obtain possession of the Manor of Dulwich. The document establishes in what way the property came into the hands of the Calton family, and that Alleyn, according to his estimate, had paid dearly for it. The signature at the end was of course that of the party who drew the bill.]

[Indorsed]

Allen, con. Calton miles.

[And by Alleyn in his own hand]

A bill of complaynt in y^e Chawncerie against
S^r Francis Calton, knight, dat. y^e 27 of
May, 1611.

To the Right Honourable Thomas Lord
Ellesmere, Lord high Chancellour of Eng-
land.

In most humble wise complayninge sheweth unto your good Lordshipp your daylie Orator, Edward Allen, Esquire: That whereas one Thomas Calton, cittizen and goldsmith of London, purchased of the late Kinge of famous memorie, kinge Henrye the Eight, all that the mannor of Dulwich with the appurtenances, and dyvers other landes, meddowes, pastures, woodes, and underwoodes, scituate, lyinge, and beinge in the parrish of Camberwell in the Countye of Surrey, to him, the said Thomas Calton, and Margaret, his then wife, and to the heires of their

bodies begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heires of the said Thomas Calton.

Afterwardes they, the said Thomas Calton and Margaret his wife had yssue, William and Nicholas Calton, and dyvers other sonnes. Shortlye afterwardes the said Thomas Calton died thereof so seized, and the said Margaret him survived and soe was seized of the said mannor and premisses in her demesne as of fee taylor, the remaynder in reversion over unto the said William Calton, sonne and heire of the said Thomas Calton, deceased. And the said Margaret so beinge seased, the remaynder or reversion to William as aforesaid, shortly afterwardes she, the said Margaret, and the said William, by their writinge bearinge date about the fower and twentieth day of Januarie, in the twelveth yere of the raigne of our late soveraigne ladye Queene Elizabeth, made betweene the said Margaret and the said William Calton, her eldest sonne, on the one partie, and Giles Pawlett, alias Lord Gyles Pawlett, and William Chiball, draper, on the other partie, (the certain date whereof, for want of the same, your Orator knoweth not,) did covenant and grant, before our ladye daie then next followinge, to levye a fyne of the premisses par recognizance de droit, &c., to their uses followinge, that is to saie, to the vse of the said Margaret for the terme of her owne life without ympeachment of anie manner of waste, and after her decease to the use of the said Nicholas Calton, the second sonne of the said Thomas Calton and Margaret, and to the heires of his boddie lawfully to be begotten; and for default of such yssue the remaynder over to divers other uses in the same Indenture conteyned, with the remaynder to the right heires of the said Margaret or to the right heires of the said Thomas Calton her husband.

Afterwardes shee, the said Margaret, beinge so seized, dyed thereof so seized, by and after whose decease, and by vertue of the statute of conveyinge uses into possession, the said Nicholas Calton entered into all and singular the said Mannor and

premisses with thappurtenances, and thereof was seized in fee, or fee tayle, by vertue of the said fyne and conveyance as aforesaid. And shortlie afterwarde hee, the said Nicholas Calton, beinge so seized, tooke to wife Joan, and they had issue betweene them lawfully begotten, Sir Frauncis Calton, Knight, now livinge, and dyvers other sonnes. And then, shortlie after, the said Nicholas Calton died of the said Mannor and premisses seased as aforesaid, by and after whose decease the same descended and came as of right the same ought to descend and come, unto the said Sir Frauncis Calton, knight, as eldest sonne and heire of the said Nicholas Calton, deceased, lawfully begotten, who likewise entered into the said Mannor and premisses, and thereof was seized likewise in fee, or fee taile, by vertue of the said conveyance as aforesaid.

And hee, the said Sr. Frauncis Calton, beinge so seized, afterwarde, that is to saye in or about the fowerth yere of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord the Kinges Ma^{tie}, that now ys, of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland, the fortieth, for and in consideration of a great some of money, unto the said Sir Frauncis Calton in hand paid by your Lordshipp's said Orator, did by good and lawfull conveyances in the lawe convey and assure the said Mannor with thappurtenances and dyvers other landes in the parish of Camberwell, in the said Countye of Surrey, unto your Lordshipp's said Orator and to his heires; by vertue of which said conveyance your Lordshipp's said Orator hath byne and still is of the said Mannor and premisses with thappurtenances lawfully seized in his demesne as of fee to him and his heires.

And likewise the said Sr Francis Calton, knight, by his said conveyance made to your Lordshipp's said Orator, as aforesaid, did bargaine and sell unto your said Orator all and all manner of deedes, evidences, wrytinges, escriptes and mynymentes touchinge or any waies concerninge the said Mannor and premisses. But now so it is, and it maie please your good Lordship, that by casuall meanes unto the said Orator unknowen,

dyvers of the evidences and ancient writinges touchinge and concerninge the said Mannor and premisses are of late come into the handes, custodie, and possession of the said S^r Frauncis Calton, knight, or into the custodie or possession of some other person or persons by his meanes, deliverye, consent, or privitie, either from the said Thomas Calton, grandfather to the said Sir Frauncis, or from Margarette Calton, grandmother of the said S^r Francis Calton, as also some deede or conveyance made by the said Margarette, alone or jointlie with the said William Calton, eldest sonne of the said Thomas Calton, unto dyvers persons of trust, unto the use of the said Margarette Calton for the terme of her owne life, and then to the use of the said Nicholas Calton, one of the youngest sonnes of the said Thomas Calton and Margarette, and to the heires of the boddie of the said Nicholas Calton, with dyvers remaynders over, as by the same deede or conveyance, whereunto reference beinge had, more at large it doth and maie appeare; which said deede or writinge, with the other evidences and conveyances touchinge and concerninge the said Mannor and premisses with thap-purtenances, he, the said Sir Francis Calton, havinge in his custodie or possession, or in the custody and possession of some other, by his deliverie, consent, or privitie, hath endeavored, and still doth endeavor, to the uttermost of his power, to conceale and suppress the said deede or writinge, and other the evidences touchinge the said Mannor and premisses. And hee, the said S^r Frauncis Calton, well knowinge in whose handes and possession the said deedes be, yet notwithstandinge he unconscionably concealeth the same from your Lordships said Orator, and refuseth to delyver them.

And hee, the said Sir Francis Calton, well knowinge that there was such a deede made by the said Margarette and William Calton, theldest sonne of the said Thomas Calton, the purchaser to the said Lord Pawlett or to some other, and to such uses as aforesaid, yet notwithstandinge, contrarye to his owne knowledge, hee, the said S^r Frauncis Calton, doth conceale and

detayne the same from your Lordshipps said Orator, confederatynge and combyninge himselfe together with the heires of the said William Calton, the eldest sonne of the said Thomas Calton (to whome the inheritance of the said Mannor and premisses was and should have disceded, if the said deede or conveyance had not beene made and executed), to defeate your Lordshipps said Orator of the inheritance of the said Mannor and premisses, with thappurtenances.

As also he, the said Sr Frauncis Calton, knight, hath made and contrived, or hath caused to be made and contrived, dyvers secret estates of and in the said Mannor and premisses, or of some part thereof, to dyvers persons to your Lordshipps said Orator unknowen, thereby unconscionable intending hereafter to defraude your said orator and his heires of the said Mannor and premisses; or hee doth knowe of some secret or former estates to be made of the premisses, or of some part thereof, whereby hee should not be liable to convey the same to your Orator, accordinge to the true meaning of his said sale so made unto your said Orator, contrarie to all right, equitie, and good conscience, your Lordshipps said Orator having paid verie dearely for the said Mannor and premisses unto the said Sir Frauncis Calton, being well assured that the said Margarette Calton, and the said William Calton, her eldest sonne, did joyne in a conveyance made of the said Mannor and of the premisses to dyvers persons, as by the office found after the death of the said Thomas Calton, it doth and maye appeare, and to such use and uses as in the said office is expressed and found. In tender consideration whereof, and for as much as your Lordshipps said Orator hath no remedie at or by the strict course of the common lawes of this realme to compell him, the said Sir Francis Calton, knight, to shew fourth the said deede and other the writinges and evidences touchinge the said Mannor and premisses, and the same to cause to delyver unto your said Orator for the preservation of his lawfull inheritance in and to the said Mannor and premisses.

As also to compell him, the said Sr. Francis Calton, truelye and directlie to aunswear and sett fourth what secret estates or conveyances hee hath made and contrived of the said Mannor and premisses, or of anie part or parcell thereof, and to whome the same is soe made ; or whether he knowe of anie secret conveyance thereof made by anie other, but onlie by the due course and order of this hõble Court. And for asmuch also as your Lo. said Orator knoweth not the certaine dates or number of the said deedes, evidences, or writings, and other the secret conveyances made by the said Sr. Frauncis Calton or anie other touchinge the said Mannor and premisses, nor whether the same be in bagge, chest, or box, sealed, locked, or unlocked, or in whose handes the same be ; and for asmuch also as he, the said Sir Frauncis Calton, doth goe about and indeavour to suppress and conceale the said deede and evidences concerninge the said Mannor and premisses, confederatinge with the heires of the said William Calton to defeat and defraude your Lordshippes said Orator of the said Mannor and premisses, your said Orator having truelie paid unto the said Sr. Frauncis Calton a great summe of money for the same, maie it therefore please your good Lordshipp, the premisses considered, to graunt unto your said Orator his Ma^{ties} most gracious writt of subpena to be unto the said Sr. Frauncis Calton, knight, directed, commaunding him thereby at a certeine daie, and under a certeine paine therein to be limitted, to be and personallie to appeere before your good Lordshipp in his Ma^{ties} high Court of Chancery, then and there, upon his corporal oath, truelie, plainlie, and directlie to aunswear to all and sundrie the premisses.

And that he, the said Sr. Frauncis Calton, maie truelie sett fourth upon his oathe what secrett estates hee hath contrived or caused to be made, or knoweth by anie other to be made or contrived of the said Mannor and premisses, or of anie part thereof, and to what person or persons the same was so made. As also to sett fourth what estate hee, the said Sir Frauncis, had and stood seized of in the said Mannor and premisses at

the time of the sale thereof unto your Lordshipps said Orator. As also to sett fourth what deedes, evidences, or writinges touchinge or concerninge the said Mannor and premisses hee, the said Sir Frauncis, hath or had in his handes or custodie, or in the handes and custodie of any other person or persons by his deliverie, knowledge, consent, or privitie ; as to aunsweare, uppon his oath, whether there were not such a deede or conveyance made by the said Margaret and William Calton to such uses as aforesaid, or to what uses it was made. And to shewe in whose handes the same is and remayneth, and what thestates are conteyned in the said deede.

And further, that your Lo. would be pleased to grant unto your said Orator his Ma^{ties} writt of duces tecum, to be unto him, the said Sr. Frauncis Calton, knight, directed, commandinge him thereby to bring unto your hõble Court the said deede or deedes so made by the said Margaret and William Calton, as aforesaid ; as all such other deedes, evidences, and writinges remayning in his handes and custodie, or in the handes and custodie of any other person or persons by his delivery, knowledge, consent, or privitie, or otherwise, touchinge or anie waies concerning the said Mannor and premisses with thappurtenances.

And further, to stand to and abide such order and decree in the premisses, as to your good Lordshipp and this hõble Court shall seeme meete to agree with right equitie and good conscience. And your Orator, accordinge to his bounden duty, shall dailie praie unto God for the preservation of your Lordship with longe life and increase of honor.

JOHN HARRYES.

A MYSTERIOUS LETTER.

[A somewhat mysterious epistle, which the writer obviously intended should only be intelligible to Alleyn. The Countess of Dorset, mentioned in it, was the widow of Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, and Earl of Dorset, the author of the two last acts of the tragedy of "Gorboduc" (afterwards called "Ferrex and Porrex"), 8vo. 1565, and of the "Induction" to the "Mirror for Magistrates." Mr. Hallam, in his "Introd. to the Lit. of Europe," ii. 167, inclines to Warton's opinion that Sackville was concerned in the three first acts of "Gorboduc;" but the oldest edition states expressly that "the two last acts" only were by Sackville, and the three first by Norton. The first edition of "Gorboduc" is a great literary curiosity, which Warton had probably not seen. Lord Montagu was Antony Brown, Baron Montagu, who died in 1629.]

[Addressed]

To his loving frend Mr Edward Allen, Esquire, these bee dd with speed.

Mr. Allinge, I have receved your letter by your lade, wher in I do beleve you in all you wryte unto me in the sayd letter: and with all Mr. Boltonne did tell me that if ther wer erneste haste made of the mony, ther sholde be good bandes geven for it, which ther shalbe now no such nede: for so it is, that aboute some fortnyght hinch, my lorde Montegewe dothe com to London; and as he commeth to loge at my howse, nowe the countys of Dorset is come to London, he lyeth not at Horsly; so, with Godes helpe, I will atend him to London, and that day you shall have word wher you shall find his logginge the morow, and then will I tell you the party that told me the newes I did writ you, and I pray kepe my sekertes about the matter I write unto you. So in haste I take my leve of you this fyrste of November, 1611, your lovinge frind

RICHARD FORKENCH.

NAT FIELD AND HENSLOWE.

[Upon what play Field and Daborne were at this time engaged is nowhere stated. No date is mentioned; but Field was a very young man when his "Woman is a Weathercock" was published in 1612. That excellent comedy has been reprinted in the supplemental volume to the last edition of "Dodsley's Old Plays."]

Mr Hinchlow,

Mr Dawborne and I have spent a great deale of time in conference about this plott, w^{ch} will make as beneficiall a play as hath come these seaven yeares. It is out of his love he detained it for us; onely xl. is desir'd in hand, for w^{ch} we will be bound to bring you in the play finish'd upon the first day of August: wee would not loose it, wee have so assured a hope of it, and, on my knowledge, Mr Dawborne may have his request of another Companie. Pray, let us have speedie answeare, and effectuall; you know, the last money you disburst was justly pay'd in, and wee are now in a way to pay you all so, unlesse yo^r selfe, for want of small supplie, will put us out of it againe. Pray, let us know when wee shall speake with you; till when, and ever, I rest

Yo^r loving and obedient Son,

NAT. FIELD.

A TENANT FOR ALLEYN.

[A proposal from John Hibborne, who held some minor office about the Court, to become tenant to Alleyn of a house at Dulwich. It does not appear from the superscription where Alleyn at this date resided, but probably on his manor of Dulwich.]

[Addressed]

To my verie loving frind Mr. Edward Alleyn
deliver these.

Mr. Alleyn, the last tyme I spoke with you, I remember you told me that now you could fit me conveniently at Dulage with

a little habitation. I am now likewise willing to deale with you: yf you will take the paynes to-morrow or on Sunday to come to my lodging at Whithall, we shall confer about it. I wold come unto you, but that an ill disposition of bodie hath caused me to keep my chamber this foure or five dayes: you shall doe me a curtesie to come unto me, and I will be readie to goe much further for you. So wishing you health, I rest

Your well-wishing frind,

JOHN HEBBORNE.

Whithall, this 3 of Januarie, 1611.

Postscript. I am affrayd I shall on Tewsdays attend his Ma^{tie} to Royston; wherfor I desire to confer with you before my goinge.

THE UPPER PIKE-GARDEN.

[An ordinary arbitration-bond, (with a penalty of £100) in consequence of disputes between Henslowe and a person of the name of Abraham Wall, respecting the right to a piece of ground called the Upper Pike-Garden, on the Bank-side, Southwark. It should seem that Henslowe's residence was in or near the spot in question.]

Noverint universi, &c. 16. Feby. 9 James I.

The condition of this present obligation is such, that where controversies and suites in lawe are dependinge betweene the above bounden Abraham Wall, on the one partie, and the above-named Phillip Henslo on the other partie, for and concerninge the possession, right, and tytle of certaine lands and tenementes, with goods and implements of howshold, at the upper pyke garden, on the banke syde in Southwarke aforesayd: Now, yf the sayd Abraham Wall shall well and trewly observe, performe, fulfill, and kepe all and singular such orders, arbitrementes, judgements, and awards as by William Symons and John Wood, clerks, William Richardson, gent, and George Payne, citizen and grocer of London, elected indifferently by both the said parties shalbe awarded, and adjudged to be per-

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formed and kept by the said Abraham Wall, without fraud or coven, so that the sayd award be published in writing under the handes of the said arbitrators within one moneth next after the date of this present obligation, that then this same obligation is to be voyd and of none effecte, or els to stand and abyde in his full strength and vertue.

p me, ABRAHAM WALL.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

ROBERT NODDINGE.

THOMAS SEDGWICK.

GREGORY MARTON.

SUPPLY OF PARIS GARDEN.

[The subsequent letter, we may presume, related to the furnishing Alleyn and Heuslowe with some bulls or dogs for the sports at Paris Garden. It has no date of the year, but at this time, probably, Alleyn had the chief management of the business.]

[Addressed]

To M^r Allen at Dulledge, dd with spead. In his absence to his father-in-law, Paris Garden.

Sturmester, 24 of Auguste.

Sir, my comm. rem. yt wilbe the beginge of the next weeke or that I begiñe my journey, and yt wilbe five dayes journey. I rec. directions frome your man allso about the busines, and you shalbe so well provided as ever you were in your lyffe, and to that I will engage you my creditte. For the reason of my stay here so longe I omitt to speake of for want of tyme, and so I comitt you to God.

Your frind to use,

THOMAS YONGE. [↑]

ROSE, AN ACTOR, AND HIS WIFE.

[The writer of the following letter may have been some connection of Alleyn, as his mother had married a person of the name of Browne. Of Rose, an actor, this is the first time we hear; and, as his name is not included in any list of the theatrical servants of Prince Charles, we may presume that he did not attain any great distinction in the profession. The letter also affords evidence that the wives of performers sometimes officiated as "gatherers."]

[Addressed]

To his assured Frend, Mr. Edward Alleyne,
Esquier, geve thes.

Mr. Alleyn, I commend me hartely unto yow. I understand that Mr. Rose is entertayned amongst the Princes men, and meanes to stay and settell him selfe in that company, and to sett up his rest, and to do his best endeavors onely in that company. His money is but small, but he hopes so to carry himselfe amongst them, that in time he will so beare him selfe that but according to his deserts they will use him. In the mene time, he hath requested me to be sollicitus for him to yow (who he knowes can strike a greter stroke amongst them then this) as to procure him but a gathering place for his wife; for he hath had many crosses, and it wilbe some comfort and help to them both: and he makes no dout but she shall so carry her selfe in that place, as they shall think it well bestowed, by reason of her upright dealing in that nature. Now, sir, if for my sake you will procure it, I will not one[ly] acknowledge my selfe greatly beholding to yow, but he also shall have reason to pray for your health and happy proceedings. He hath been an old servant of mine, allwayes honest, trusty, and trew, and I would, if I could, do him aney good I can; and now he meanes to apply him selfe onely in this cowrse. Thus, hoping yow will show him what favor you may, I cease prayeng for your helth as for mine owne. Clarkenwell, this 11 of April, 1612.

Your loving Frend,

ROBT. BROWNE.

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ANOTHER OF ALLEYN'S TENANTS.

[The maiden name of Alleun's mother was Towneley, and she is supposed to have been one of the distinguished family of the Towneleys of Lancashire. Had the writer of the following letter, who was one of Alleun's tenants, been a kinsman, he would probably have urged his relationship in favour of his request. As no address is given with the letter, we cannot now ascertain where the house he held of Alleun was situated.]

[Addressed]

To the worshipfull and his loving frind, Edward Allen, Esq.

Gentle Landlord, lett me intreat you to helpe us to a little timber or poles, to finish that wee have in hand, and also to mend thother howse before I part with my carpenter; for it will be verie difficult to get a carpenter, that is againe, especially to doe only jobes of woorke. Commend me to my Landladie with many thanckes: in hast,

Your freind, loving and assured,

T. TOWNLEY.

10 Nov., 1612.

A BAD TENANT.

[Robert Pallant was an actor of considerable eminence in the reign of James I. Whether what follows relates to him may be a question, but he certainly was a member of the company with which Alleun and Henslowe were connected. His conduct does not appear to have been very creditable in this instance; and it is very possible that the "Mr. Pallent" mentioned below was not Robert Pallant, the actor: perhaps he was one of Alleun's tenants.]

A true note how Mr. Pallent is charged for rent and other chardges.

Imprimis, he entred into the said tenement one our Ladie daye in Lent, in the xxxixth yeare of our late soveraigne ladie

the queene, deceased, and was to paie yearlie vij^{li}. by xxx^s. a quarter.

He remayned there vij yeares and a halff, and for the first three quarters of the yeare he paid his rent orderlie: then he would everye yeare leave unpaid either a quarter or halff yeares rent; so that in five yeares rent there was two yeares rent behind, which was xij^{li}., and all the acquitances went, received &c., in part of paiment of a farther some, beinge all of his owne hand writing, such was the trust at that tyme reposed in him; and a yeare and a halff before his going from the said tenement he paid not any thinge: soe there remaineth for that ix^{li}.; soe there is in all due for rent, xxj^{li}.

He also promised to leave the said tenement in as good repaire as he found it, which he did not, but made great wast and spoile, so that the repairinge thereof commeth to xx^{li} nobles at the least, as wilbe proved by mani witnesses.

The chardges susteined in lawe, in prosecutinge the said Mr. Pallent by way of ejectment, to get the possession, commeth to iiij^{li}.

At the carriege away of his stuffe, he garded it so that none durst attempt the aresting it for feare of murther, such was his desperatnes and others his associates; and duringe the tyme he abode in the said tenement, no man could come in to distrain, by reason he kept his dores locked.

The whole some for rent, repaire, and chardges in lawe, commeth to xxxj^{li}. xiiij^s. 4^d., which money goeth to tamend the maintenaunce of thre poore schollers in Cambridge, &c. the which Mr. Philip Henslowe hath disbursed allredie.

ALLEYN'S KINSWOMAN.

[This letter, from a kinswoman of Alleyn, shows that up to 1612 he still had a residence on the Bankside—perhaps at or near the Bear Garden. John Alleyn, Edward's elder brother, it should seem, had lived in the family of the Earl of Nottingham, probably, from the terms used, in some domestic capacity, and not merely as one of his theatrical servants. "Wardon," or "Warden," from whence the letter is dated, was most likely Saffron Walden, in Essex.]

[Addressed]

To the worpp. and her very lovinge Cozen,
Mr. Edward Allen, dwellinge at the Bancke-
side, give these.

This ys to be delivered by Edwarde
Mannynge, the Powlter of Warden.

After my moste hartly comendations remembred unto you, very lovinge Cozen, hopinge in God that you are in good healthe, as I was at the makinge hereof. I woulde bee very glade to here of you; naye, muche more to see you in the cuntry at my poore dwellinge howse. I would intreat you to send me worde in wrytinge, wheather your Tenaunte, Thomas Clemente, did deliver unto you any letter from me aboute three or fower yeares agoe. And I have sente you by this bearer a small remembraunce, a littell cheise. And when your brother, my lovinge Cozen, John Allen, dwelt with my very good lord, Charles Heawarde, hee did then, when hee cam unto the cuntry, lye att my Fathers howse, Goorde Everytt, in Tuddington parishe, when as I did never see your selfe. And thus prayinge to God for your longe lyfe, with my very good cozen your wife, I cease. From Wardon this Two and Twentethe daye of September, 1612.

Your lovinge cozen untell death,

ELIZABETH SOCKLEN.

ALLEYN'S DEBT TO CALTON.

[The following is from Mr. Halliwell's MSS., and would seem to prove that Alleyn and Sir Francis Calton had had money transactions subsequent to the filing of the bill in Chancery, 27th May, 1611. It is not unlikely that Calton had sold Alleyn some further property, and that at this date part of the purchase-money was yet unpaid.]

Maye the 12, 1612.

Recd since the sixte daye of december last paste, the full som of one hundred and seventye poundes, together with the consideration of 300^{li}. which Mr. Allen then oughte me, beinge xx^{li}. xiiij^s., so that all reckonings made even to this daye, he nowe remayneth indebted unto me the juste some of 200 poundes. In witnes whereof, I have subscribed my name the day and yeare above wrytten.

p me,

FRAN. CALTON.

Witnes,

MOYSES BOWLER.

SIR F. CALTON'S NECESSITIES.

[This note, and the appended receipt, (also from Mr. Halliwell's MSS.) show that in 1612-13 Sir Francis Calton was in want of so small a sum as £5, for which he was under the necessity of applying to Alleyn.]

Mr. Allen, I praye yow send me fyve poundes by this bearer, w^{ch}, to tell yow the very truthe, muste be the moytie of a brybe I am in expectation to bestowe upon one this daye, yf matters succede accordinglye; and so in haste I bydd yow farewell.

Your lovinge frend,

FRAN. CALTON.

Rec. this xviii th of March, 1612, by me, John Cockin,	} v ^{li} .
to the vse of my Mr., Sr. Francis Calton, the some	
of five pounde, according to the tenor of this note.	
I say Rec.	

JOHN COCKIN.

FARTHER CLAIMS BY CALTON.

[To the same effect as the preceding, and from the original, belonging to Mr. Halliwell. It does not appear whether the sum of £70, here requested, was the whole of Sir F. Calton's demand upon Alleyn.]

Mr. Allen, my man will tell yow the cause of my not cominge; howbeit, I pray you pay him the reste of the monye, which is 70 pound, with the speedieste dispatche that yow convenientlye maye, and these presentes shall testyfie the receipt of 95^{li}. since our laste reckoninge.

I have sent, accordinge to your desyre and my promis, my letters to Mr. Knighte, with others also to Mr. Vicker, for the deliverye therof, and to receave an acquittance in such forme as I have sett downe.

Your very frend,

FRAN. CALTON.

Rec. this viijth of Aprill, 1612, by me, John Cockin, to } lxx^{li}.
the use of my Mr., Sr. Fran. Carlton, the some of }

JOHN COCKIN.

MACHIAVELL AND THE DEVIL.

[Of this play we have no other information than in this and the following papers: it perhaps related to Machiavelli's novel of Belphegor, in which the Devil plays so principal a part, and which is called, in the enumeration of the author's minor productions, *Unà dilettevole novella del Demonio che pigliò moglie*. It does not appear that Daborne had any assistance from other dramatists. The price of a new play at this date had risen to £20.]

Memorandum: 'tis agreed between Phillip Hinchlow, Esq^r and Robert Daborn, gent., y^t y^e s^d Robert shall before y^e end of this Easter Term deliver in his Tragoedy, cald Matchavill and y^e Divill, into the hands of y^e sd Phillip, for y^e summ of xxty pounds, six pounds whearof y^e sd Robert acknowledgeth to hav receaved in earnest of y^e sayd play this 17th of Aprill,

and must hav other fowr pound upon delivery in of 3 acts. and other ten pound upon delivery in of y^e last scean p^rfit. In witnes hearof the s^d Robert Daborn hearunto hath set his hand this 17th of Aprill, 1613.

P^r me, ROB. DABORNE.

Mem. I have receaved of M^r Hinchlow the full somm of sixteen pounds, in part of twenty pounds due to me, Robert Daborne, for my tragoedy of Matchavill and the Divell: I say receaved sixteen pounds, this 19th of May as aforesaid. In witnes whearof I hereunto hav set my hand, 1613.

ROBT. DABORNE.

This play to be deliverd in to

M^r Hinchlow with all speed.

JOHN ALLEYN.

HENSLOWE'S LOAN TO DABORNE.

[Daborne was a man of some property and family, who had lawsuits upon his hands. Out of those grew part of his necessities. The witness to the payment of the 20s. here borrowed was Hugh Attwell, a celebrated actor, who died Sept. 25, 1621. See "Hist. Engl. Dram. Poetry and the Stage," i. 423, for an Epitaph upon him by William Rowley.]

Good M^r Hinchlow, I am upon y^e sodeyn put to great extremity in bayling my man, comitted to Newgate upon taking a possession for me, and I took less mony of my kinsman, a lawier y^t was with me, then servd my turn. I am thearfor to beseech y^a to spare me xxxs., which will doe me so great pleasure y^t y^a shall find me thankfull, and performing more then ever I promisd or am tyed to: so, bold upon so great an occation to trouble y^a, I crave y^r favorable interpretation, and rest

ever at y^r comaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

28 Aprill, 1613.

Lente M^r Daborne this money.

wittness, HUGH ATTWELL.

THE ARRAIGNMENT OF LONDON.

[The ensuing note refers to two plays, upon one of them Daborne being engaged alone, while, in the other, "The Arraignment of London," he was to be assisted by Cyril Tourneur, a well-known dramatist of the time. R. Greene and T. Lodge wrote a play (printed in 1594), called "A Looking-glass for London and England;" and perhaps Daborne's and Tourneur's drama was intended to be of the same moral and satirical character.]

M Hinchlow, the company told me y^a wear expected thear yesterday, to conclude about thear comming over, or goinge to Oxford. I have not only labord my own play, which shall be ready before they come over, but given Cyrill Tourneur an act of y^e Arreignment of London to write, y^t we may have y^t likewise ready for them. I wish y^a had spoken with them to know thear resolution, for they depend upon y^r purpose. I hav sent y^a 2 sheets more, fayr written: upon my ffayth, s^r, they shall not stay one howr for me; whearfor I beseech y^a, as heatherto, so y^a would now spare me 40s., which stands me upon to send over to my counsell in a matter concerns my whole estate, and wher I deale otherways then to y^r content, may I and myne want ffryndship in distress! so, relying one y^r favor, which shall never reap loss by me, I rest

at y^r commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

5^o June, 1613.

Receved by me, Garred Leniaghe, xxs.

DABORNE'S LAWSUIT.

[Either Daborne's "Term business," as he calls it, occasioned him a heavy disbursement, or he made use of it as a means of obtaining money from Henslowe. The play he alludes to was no doubt that mentioned in his note five days before.]

S^r, I expected y^a one munday. I perceav y^a misdoubt my readynes: s^r, I would not be hyred to break my ffayth with

y^a. Before god, they shall not stay one hour for me; for I can this week diliver in y^e last word, and will y^t night they play thear new play read this; whearof I have sent y^a a sheet and more fayr written: y^a may easily know thear is not much behind, and I intend no other thing, god is my judge, till this be finisht. The necessity of term busines exacts me beyond my custom to be trublesom unto y^a; whearfore I pray send me the other 20s. I desyred, and then when I read next week I will take y^e 40s. y^t remaynes, and doubt not y^a shall receav thanks in doing me this curtesy. so presuming one y^r favor, I rest

Y^{rs} to commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

10 June, 1613.

DABORNE'S SUIT TO HENSLOWE.

[A note of similar import to the last: we may also gather from it that Henslowe sometimes employed Daborne to read the "books," or plays, of other dramatists.]

Mr Hinchlow, I am inforced to make bold with y^a for one 20s. more of y^e xl., and one Fryday night I will deliver in y^e 3 acts fayr written, and then receav y^e other 40s.; and if y^a please to have some papérs now, y^a shall; but my promise shall be as good as bond to y^a, and if y^a will let me have perusal of any other book of y^{rs}, I will after Fryday intend it speedly, and doubt not to giv y^a full content; so with my best remembrance I rest

at y^r commaund,

ROBT. DABORNE.

3 May, 1613.

R. the some of xxx. of Mr Hinchley, to the use of Mr. Daborne, the 3 of Maye, 1613, by me,

THOMAS MORE.

ALLEYN'S JUDGMENT IN PLAYS.

[Here, and in other letters, we see that Alleyn was in the habit of hearing plays read, before his wife's stepfather thought fit to buy them.]

Mr Hinchlow, my troubles drawing to some end, have forced me to be troublesom to y^u beyond my purpose, bycause I would be free at any rate. some papers I have sent y^u, though not so fayr written all as I could wish. I will now wholly intend to finishe my promise, which, though it come not within compass of this Term, shall come upon y^e neck of this new play they ar now studyinge: my request is, the xl. might be made up, whear of I have had 9l.; if y^u please to appoynt any houer to read to Mr Allin, I will not fayle, nor after this day loose any time till it be concluded. My best remembrance to y^u, I rest

yo^u, ROBT. DABORNE.

8 May, 1613.

R. the some of xxs. of Mr Hinchlowe, to the }
use of Mr Daborne, 8^o May, pd . . . } xxs.

THOS. MORE.

DABORNE'S LAW-TROUBLES.

[Daborne's disputes at law had in some way produced a separation between him and his wife, who, it appears by this letter, had now returned to him.]

Mr. Hinchlow, y^r tried curtesy hath so far ingaged me y^t howsoever this term hath much hindred my busines, y^u shall see one Tuesday night I have not bin Idle. I thank god moste of my troubles ar ended, upon cleering whearof I have taken home my wife agayne; soe y^t I will now, after munday, intend y^r busines carefully, y^t the company shall aknowledg themselves bound to you I doubt not. One Tuesday night, if y^u will ap-

poynt, I will meet y^u and Mr Allin, and read some, for I am unwilling to read to y^e generall company till all be finisht; which upon my credit shall be to play it this next term, with y^e first. Sr, my occations of expenc have bin soe great and soe many, I am ashamed to think how much I am foret to press y^u, whearin I pray let me finde y^r favorablest construction, and ad one xxs. more to y^e mony I have receaved, which makes xil., and y^u shall one Tuesday see I will deserve, to my best ability, y^r love, which I valew more in it self then y^e best companies in y^e town. So myself and labors resting at y^r service, I commit y^u to god.

y^{rs} to command,

ROBT. DABORNE.

16 May, 1613.

Receved by me, GARRET LENIAGE, xxs.

MASSINGER AND DABORNE.

[Daborne here puts himself in comparison with Massinger as a dramatist; and we may infer that the latter had on some occasion received more for a play than the former. The two extant plays by Daborne do not show that he was entitled to hold the rank he would assume.]

Sr. I did thinke I deservd as much mony as Mr Messenger, although knowinge y^r great disbursments I forbour to urdge y^u beyond y^r own pleasure; but my occations press me so neerly, y^t I cannot but expect this reasonable curtesy, consydering I pay y^u half my earnings in the play besyds my continuall labor and chardge employd only for y^u; which if it prove not profitable now, y^u shall see I will giv y^u honnest satisfaction for the utmost farthinge I owe yow, and take another course. Whearfore this being my last, I beseech y^u way my great occasion this once, and make up my mony even with Mr Messengers, which is to let me have xs. more. I am sure I shall

deserv it, and y^a can never doe me a tymelyer curtesy, resting
at y^r commaund

ROBT. DABORNE.

I pray S^r let the boy giv order this night
to the stage-keeper to set up bills agst
munday for Eastward hoe, and one we-
nesday, the new play.

DABORNE'S RAPIDITY.

[Hence we may gather that Daborne, before he had completed one play, had commenced another, but sent that which was nearest finished (only wanting a scene) to Henslowe, as a means of obtaining a fresh supply of money.]

S^r if y^a doe not like this play when it is read, y^a shall have the other, which shall be finished with all expedition ; for, before god, this is a good one, and will giv y^a content : howsoever, y^a shall never loose a farthing by me, whearfor I pray you misdoubt me not ; but as y^a hav bin kynd to me, so continew it till I deserv the contrary ; and I pray send me ten shillings, and take these papers, which want but one short scean of the whole play, so I rest

y^{rs} at commaund,

ROBT. DABORNE.

pd unto your Daughter, the 11th of Marche,
1613 xs.

DABORNE'S URGENCY.

[Daborne seems seldom to have applied to Henslowe in vain, and hence the repetition of his demands. He does not name the play he and others were at this date at work upon.]

M^r Hinchlow, of all ffryndship let me beholding to y^a for one xxs. which shall be the last I will request till the play be

fully by us ended. Upon my honnest ffayth with y^a, which I will never break, I will request no more, and soe much will be due to me then. Sr this is my last request of y^r trouble, which my speedy occation presses me to ; soe I rely upon y^r lov hearin, for which y^a shall ever

comand me,

ROB. DABORNE.

16 July, 1613.

dd this xxs. the 16th July, 1613.

SALE OF DABORNE'S ESTATE.

[At this date, it seems that Daborne was endeavouring to sell his estate in order to relieve his necessities : he again resorts to Henslowe for assistance. The Mr. Griffin spoken of in the following letter was perhaps the same person mentioned more than once in the "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn." He was a tradesman who carried on business near the house in which Henslowe resided.]

M Hinchlow, I wrote a leter to M^r Griffyn requestinge thearin y^r awnswer, and end to those businesses and debts betwixt us, but I cannot hear from him. My desyre was y^t eather y^a would be my paymaster for another play, or take x*l*. of y^t mony we hav had into y^r hands agayne, and security for the rest. Sr, it is not unknown to y^a y^t I could and had good certeynty of means before I wrote unto y^a, which upon hopes of y^r love I forsooke, and must now, if y^a and I had ended, return to them agayne ; for my occations, untill I have made sale of y^t estate I have, ar soe urgent, y^t I can forbear no longer, whearfor I pray, Sr, of y^r much ffryndship, doe me one curtesy more till Thursday, when we deliver in o^r play to y^a, as to lend me twenty shillings, and upon my ffayth and Christianyty I will then or giv y^a content, or secure y^a to the utmost farthing y^a can desyre of me. Sr, I pray of all y^r gentlenes deny not this curtesy to me ; and if y^a fynd me not most just and hon-

nest to y^a, may I want a ffrynd in my extremyty. It is but
till thursday I request y^a hearin, and so rest

at y^r commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

S^r, y^a hav a receipt of myne for twenty
shillings, which I sent y^a by the water-
man at the cardinalls hatt: that or this
shall sufficiently giv y^a assurance.

witnes MOYSES BOWLER.

30 July, 1613.

THE ARRAIGNMENT OF LONDON.

[This play has been introduced before, (p. 58) although the title of it is here abbreviated. "The common place bar" is of course the bar of the Court of Common Pleas.]

S^r, I sat up last night till past 12 to write out this sheet ;
and had not necessity inforcet me to y^e common place bar this
morning to acknowledge a ffynall recovery, I would this day
hav deliverd in all. I hav bin heartofor of y^e receaving hand ;
y^a shall now find return to y^r content and y^r speedyly. I pray,
S^r, let me have 40s. in earnest of y^e Arreighnment, and one
munday night I will meet y^a at y^e new play, and conclud fur-
ther, to y^r content I doubt not, resting my self and whole
indevors

wholy at y^r Service,

ROB. DABORNE.

18 June, 1613.

A NEW TRAGEDY BY DABORNE.

[From the ensuing note, we learn that Daborne had a tragedy in pro-
gress, as well as "The Arraignment of London," which perhaps was a
comedy, and in which he was assisted by Tourneur. The price of £25
is higher than any sum hitherto mentioned for a new play.]

M^r Hinchlow, I perceave y^a think I will be behind with my
Tragoedy ; if soe, y^a might worthely account me dishonest :

indeed, for thear good and myne own I have took extraodynary payns with the end, and alterd one other scean in the third act, which they have now in parts. For y^e Arreignment, if y^u will please to be my paym^r, as for the other, they shall have it; if not, try my Tragoedy first, and as y^t proves so deal with me: in the mean, my necessity is such y^t I must use other means to be furnisht upon it. Before god, I can have £25 for it, as some of y^e company know; but such is my much debt to y^u, y^t so long as my labors may pleasure them, and y^u say y^e word, I am wholly yours to be

ever commaunded,

ROB. DABORNE.

I pray, Sr, if y^u resolv to do this curtesy
for y^e company, let me hav 40s. more tell
we seale.

25 June, 1613.

pade to M^r Daborne xxs.

NAT. FIELD IMPRISONED.

[Field, having been taken in execution for £30 and in confinement, applies to Henslowe, whom he considers in the light of a father, in his extremity. He was doubtless an actor in Henslowe's company at the time, so that his liberation was a matter of some importance to the old manager.]

Father Hinchlow,

I am unluckily taken on an execution of 30*l*. I can be discharg'd for xx*l*. x*l*. I have from a frend: if now, in my extremity, you will venture x*l*. more for my liberty, I will never share penny till you have it againe, and make any satisfaction, by writing or otherwise, y^t you can devise. I am loath to importune, because I know yo^r disbursments are great; nor must any know I send to you, for then my creditor will not free me but for the whole some. I pray, speedily consider my occasion, for if I be putt to use other meanes, I hope all men and yo^r

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selfe will excuse me if (inforcedly) I cannot proove so honest,
as towards you I ever resolv'd to be.

Yo^r loving son,
NAT. FIELD.

THE BELLMAN OF LONDON.

[This was probably a different play to "The Arraignment of London," previously introduced. The mode of payment is here varied: it was to be £12, and what was taken at the doors over and above a certain amount, deducting perhaps for the expenses of the house. Here we see the origin of the modern practice (though even now somewhat obsolete) of giving dramatic authors the receipts of particular nights, deducting the charges, &c. Daborne had reduced his price for a new play to £12, with the contingent advantage of "the overplus of the second day."]

Mr. Hinchlow, I hav ever since I saw y^a kept my bed, being so lame that I cannot stand. I pray, S^r, goe forward with that reasonable bargayn for the Bellman; we will hav but twelv pownds and the overplus of the second day, whearof I hav had ten shillings, and desyre but twenty shillings more, till y^a hav 3 sheets of my papers. Good S^r, consyder how for y^r sake I hav put my self out of the assured way to get mony, and from twenty pounds a play am come to twelv; thearfor in my extremyty forsake me not, as y^a shall ever command me. My wif can aquaynt y^a how infinite great my occation is, and this shall be sufficient for the receipt, till I come to set my hand to your booke.

yo^r at comand,

ROB. DABORNE.

Aug. 3, 1613.

Lent M^r Daborne upon this not the 32 of
Auguste in earnest of a playe called
the bellman of London, xxs.

RIVAL COMPANIES.

[Daborne here threatens Henslowe with selling a new play to the king's men, i. e., the company to which Shakespeare had belonged, and from which he probably had retired. At this time there seems to have been great competition in theatricals. We may conclude, from what is said, here and elsewhere, that Daborne was Henslowe's tenant.]

Sr, I hav bin twise to speak with y^a both for the sheet I told y^a off, as also to know y^r determination for the company, wheather y^a purpose they shall have the play or noe. They rale upon me, I hear, bycause the kingsmen hav given out they shall hav it : if y^a please, I will make y^a full amends for thear wrong to y^a in my last play, before they get this ; for I know it is this play must doe them good, if y^a purpose any to them. I hav sent y^a 2 sheets more, so y^t y^a hav x sheets, and I desyre y^a to send me 30s. more, which is just eight pound, besyds my rent, which I will fully satisfy y^a, eather by them or the king's men, as y^a please. Good sr, let me know y^r mynd, for I desyre to make y^a part of amends for y^r great fryndship to me, wishing my labor or service could deserv y^a : so trusting one y^r gentlenes, which cannot long be without satisfaction, now I rest
ever at y^r commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

Lent M^{rs} Daborne upon this bille more,
the 29 of october, 1613 . . . xxs.

BEN JONSON'S PLAY.

[The play by Jonson, mentioned in the following note, was probably, as Malone suggests, his "Bartholemew Fair," which was acted at Paris Garden early in 1614. Daborne again reminds Henslowe of the earnestness of the king's players to obtain a play of him, even at the cost of returning Henslowe the money he had advanced, and 30s. to boot.]

Sr., y^r man was with me, whoe found me wrighting the last scean, which I had thought to have brought y^a to-night, but it

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will be late ear I can doe it ; and being satterday night, my ocation urges me to request y^a spare me xs. more, and for y^r mony, if y^a please not to stay till Johnson's play be playd, the king's men hav bin very earnest with me to pay y^a in y^r mony for y^r curtesy, whearin y^a shall have 30s. profit with many thanks. Purposing to-morow night, if you call not upon me, to com and shew y^a *fynis*, I pray, Sr, supply this my last occasion, which crowns y^e rest of y^r curtesies, to which I will now giv speedy requitall, resting,

ever at y^r commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

Nov. 13, 1613.

DABORNE'S PREFERMENT.

[This seems to be the latest letter with a date from Daborne. Possibly Lord Willoughby was the means of obtaining preferment for Daborne in the church, as he soon afterwards took orders, and a sermon by him is extant which was preached at Waterford in 1618.]

Sr, if ever my service may do y^a so much pleasure, or my ability make y^a payment for it, let me receav now this curtesy from yow, being but xs. : by god, had it not bin sunday, I would not have for twise so much wrote to y^a in this manner, but my Lord Willoughby hath sent for me to goe to him to-morow morning, by six a clocke, and I know not how profitable it may be to me ; and without y^r kindnes hearin I cannot goe : he goes away with the kinge to morow morning ; whearfor I must be thear by tymes. Making this last tryall of y^r love and favor, I rest

y^r^a to command,

ROB. DABORNE.

Lent upon this bille the 2 of Agust, 1614.

HENSLOWE'S AGENCY.

[It is not at all clear that Henslowe did not derive part of his profits from being a medium between authors and actors: he, having money at command, supplied the wants of authors, who placed their dramas in his hands at such a price as they could obtain, and Henslowe sold them again to the company. The following letter looks as if such had sometimes been the course of dealing.]

Mr Hinchlow, I builded upon y^r promyse to my wife, neather did I aquaint the company with any mony I had of yow, bicause they should seek to y^u, as I know they will, and giv you any terms y^u can desyre: if they doe not, I will bring y^u y^r mony for the papers and many thanks: neather will I fayle to bring in the whole play next week; whearfor I pray S^r, of all ffryndship, disburse one 40s., and this note shall suffice to acknowledg my self indebted to y^u with my q^rter's rent, 8l., for which y^u shall eather have the whole companye's bonds to pay y^u the first day of my play being playd, or the king's men shall pay it y^u and take my papers. S^r, my credit is as deer to me now as ever, and I will be as carefull of it as heartofore, or may I never prosper nor myne: so, desyryng this may satisfy y^u till y^u appoynt a tyme when I shall bring y^u the companie's bond, I rest expecting y^r no more defering me,

ever at y^r command,

ROB. DABORNE.

Witnes,

MOYSES BOWLER.

october xiiij, 1613.

MODE OF COMPOSITION.

[Some of our old dramatists must have written so much and so rapidly that we can hardly suppose them to have had time to copy their compositions out fair. Nevertheless, such was evidently the case with Daborne, as we find by the following letter which relates to an unnamed play.]

Mr Hinchlow, y^u accuse me with the breach of promise. Trew it is, I promysd to bring y^u the last secan, which that y^u

may see finished, I send y^a the foule sheet, and y^e fayr I was wrighting, as y^r man can testify ; which, if great busnies had not prevented, I had this night fynished. Sr, y^a meat me by y^e common measuer of poets : if I could not liv by it and be honest, I would giv it over : for rather then I would be unthankfull to y^a, I would famish, thearfor accuse me not till y^a hav cause. if y^a pleas to p^rform my request, I shall think myself beholding to y^a for it : howsoever, I will not fayle to write this fayr and perfit the book, which shall not ly one y^r hands.

y^a to commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

Lent at this tyme vs., the 13 of November, 1613.

ANOTHER LOAN TO DABORNE.

[It is to be hoped that all the poets in the employ of Henslowe did not give him as much trouble as Daborne. Had they made as many applications for money, probably more of their letters would have been preserved at Dulwich.]

Sr, I have sent to y^a to request y^a to send me the twenty shillings I soe earnestly desyred y^a to lend me last night ; for which, as all the rest of y^r mony, I will give yow that honnest and just satisfaction one Tuesday next, if y^a please to come or send to me, as I told y^a, that y^a shall never repent y^r many curtesyes to me ; which ty me so far to perform the faythfull part of an honnest inan, that I shall never trewly rest contented till I manyfest myself worthy y^r great favor, which ever I will aknowledge in all servic

to be commanded,

ROB. DABORNE.

27 Nov., 1613.

Wittnes, MOYSES BOWLER, dd. xxx.

BOOK BORROWED BY DABORNE.

[What kind of "book" was borrowed by Daborne from Henslowe we can only conjecture: a play was then often called "a book," and possibly Daborne wished to inspect the production of some of his fellow-dramatists. Perhaps it was some book out of the story of which he was to form a drama; and this seems the more probable from what is said on p. 73.]

Sr, out of the great love I have felt from y^a, I am to request y^a to my great occation and present necessety, which with less mony will be unsupplied, to send me xxs. I pray, s^r, accoumpt me not amongst the number of those y^t wholly serv thear own turns, for, god knows, it is not mony could hyre me to be dishonest to so worthy a ffrynd as y^a ar: whearfor sinc thear remayns so small a somm, I pray part with it to my good, which xs. will not I protest doe. You know it is term tyme, and a litle mony wanting will much hynder me; whearfor, good Sr, let me fynd y^a put some trust in me, which, when I deceav, god forsake me and myne. One munday I will be with y^a; so, desyryng y^a to send me the book y^a promysd, and no less than 20s., I rest

ever at y^r commaund,

R. DABORNE.

Nov., 1613.

Witnes, MOYSES BOWLER.

IMPORTUNITY OF DABORNE.

[Certainly, for a man who was destined ere long to go into the church, Daborne, in his letters to Henslowe, was not scrupulous in his asseverations and imprecations. He is especially emphatic in the following.]

M^r Hinchlow, I acquaynted you with my necessity, which I know you did in part supply, but if y^a doe not help me to tenn shillings by this bearer, by the living god I am utterly disgract. one ffryday night I will bring you papers to the valew of thtree

acts. Sr, my occation is not ordynary, that thus sodeynly I write to you; whearfor I beseech you do this for me, as ever y^u wisht me well, which, if I requite not, heaven forget me.

y^r at commaund,

ROB. DABORNE.

Lent upon this bille xs. to the fencer, upon the Owle.

DABORNE TO GRIFFIN.

[This note has no date, but perhaps Daborne had wearied out Henslowe, and therefore applied to Griffin for an advance of money upon some pawn he would place in his hands.]

Mr Griffin, my occation is so much above ordynary loss, y^t if y^u cannot procure Mr Hinchlowe to let me have the 40s. Ile deliver y^u a pawn worth a hundred pownd into y^r hands for it, till I pay it agayn; whearfor I pray, Sr, doe my extremyty this curtesy, and I will requitt it more then I will write. I pray, Sr, let me instantly speak with y^u, for it concerns me nearly.

y^r much distressed frynd,

ROB. DABORNE.

Lent uppon a pattent to Mr Dawborne xls.

THE OWL.

[The three following documents refer to a play called "The Owl," (mentioned above) which Daborne had in hand for Henslowe; and the first of them strongly confirms the notion, that Henslowe acted as a sort of broker between authors and actors, for Daborne tells him that if he will give £10 for it, the company will rather give him £20 than forego it. Another point to be inferred from the first letter is, that Henslowe was interested in some private theatre at the time, as well as in a "public house," by which Daborne means a theatre open to the weather. For other distinctions between the two see Hist. Engl. Dram. Poetry and the Stage, iii. 335.]

Sr, I wrote to yow by my wif, hopinge upon y^r receipt of all my papers, that yow would have pleased me with 20s., if

not upon the play yow have, yet upon my other out of y^r booke, which I will undertake shall make as good a play for y^r publike howse as ever was playd, for which I desyre but ten pounds, and I will undertake upon the reading it your company shall giv y^a 20℥. rather then part with it. Sr, howsoever my want inforces me for a tyme, I shall shortly be out of it, and be able to forbear a play till I can make the best. It is but 20s. I desyre, till y^a have mony or security to your content for that y^a ar out of. I have upon my wifes words kept one all this day, heer assuring myself y^a would for my much good have pleased me this onc, which I beseech at y^r hands, though y^a never lay out penny more ; in which trust I rest

ever at y^r commaund

ROB. DABORNE.

9 December, 1613.

Sr, doe not thinke I incroch upon y^a, for God is my judg, I mean playnly and justly, and y^a shall make y^r own terms with me in any thinge.

Receaved by mee, Robert Daborne, gentleman, of Phillip Henschlowe, Esquier, the 24 of December, 1613, the some of seaven pounds in parte of payment of the some of tenn pounds, which I am to receave of the said Phillip Henschlowe, in full satisfaction of a plaie called the Owle, when I have fynished and made perfect the same, accordinge to a bond made by mee to the said Phillip for the same. In wittnes whereof I have hereto sett my hand the daye and yeare first above written.

ROB. DABORNE.

The Condition of this obligacōn is such, that if the above bounden Robert Daborne shall deliver, or cause to be deliverd, one plaie fullie perfected and ended, called by the name of The Oule, unto the said Phillip Hinchlow, at or upon the tenth daye of februarie next ensuinge the date hereof, which the

said Phillip Hinchlow shall approve, allowe, and accept of, that then and from hence forth this present obligacōn to bee voyde and of non effect, or else to remayne in full power, strength, and virtue.

ROBERT DABORNE.

Signed Sealed and Delv^ded in the presence of
Edwarde Griffin, Walter Hopkinss, Geo.
Hales.

DABORNE'S BOND TO HENSLOWE.

[Notwithstanding the advance of £7 upon "The Owl" on the 24th December, 1613, Daborne was again in extreme want of money on the 31st December, and accordingly obtained 10s. more from the old manager.]

Sr, I yeeld y^a many thanks for y^r last kindnes, which did me infinite pleasure. I hav bin very ill this week of an extream cold, ells I had come this night unto you. I will request no farther curtesy at y^r hands upon any occation till y^a hav papers in full and to y^r content, only the other tenn shillings which I requested ag^t this day, being a tyme y^t requires me beyond my present means. Sr, think not y^r curtesy can loose by me. I will be any thing rather then ingratefull to so much love as I hav receaved from y^a; as y^a hav donn what I can desyre in doing this, so now look for my honnest care to discharge my Bond. I will not truble y^a with many words. God send y^a many hapy new years, and me no otherwise then I approv myself honnest to y^a.

y^{rs} ever at commaund,

31^o December, 1613.

ROB. DABORNE.

One munday I will come to y^a, and appoynt
for the reading the old book and bryng in
the new.

pd upon this bille toward the Owle, x^s.

DAWES, THE PLAYER'S, ARTICLES.

[This is the oldest specimen of theatrical "articles" (as they are still called) between managers and players. It is very curious and minute in its details and provisions; but as the original, which must have been in a very much injured state, is not now to be found in Dulwich College, it is necessarily given as Boswell printed it, vol. xxi. p. 413. Henslowe and Meade were at this time in partnership. Meade and Alleyn were connected in business, at least after the death of Henslowe, in January, 1616, and had violent disputes. See "Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," p. 159.]

Articles of Agreement] made, concluded, and agreed uppon, and w^{ch} are to be kept and performed by Robert Dawes, of London, Gent, unto and with Phillipp Henslowe, Esq^r, and Jacob [Meade, Waterman], in manner and forme following, that is to say—

Imprimis. the said Robert Dawes for him, his executors, and administrators, doth covenante, promise, and graunt, to and with the said Phillipp Henslowe, and Jacob Meade, their executors, administrators, and assynes in manner and formme followinge, that is to saie—that he the said Robert Dawes shall and will plaie with such company as the said Phillipp Henslowe and Jacob Meade shall appoynte, for and during the tyme and space of three yeares from the date hereof, for and at the rate of one whole Share, accordinge to the custome of players; and that he the said Robert Dawes shall and will at all tymes during the said terme duly attend all suche rehearsall, which shall the night before the rehearsall be given publickly out; and if that he the saide Robert Dawes shall at any tyme faile to come at the hower appoynted, then he shall and will pay to the said Phillipp Henslowe and Jacob Meade, their executors or assignes, Twelve pence; and if he come not before the saide rehearsall is ended, then the said Robert Dawes is contented to pay twoe shillings; and further, that if the said Robert Dawes shall not every daie whereon any play is or ought to be played be ready apparrelled and ——— to begyn the play at the

hower of three of the clock in the afternoone unles by sixe of the same Company he shall be lycenced to the contrary, that then he the said Robert Dawes shall and will pay unto the said Phillipp and Jacob, or their assignes, three [shillings]; and if that he the saide Robert Dawes happen to be overcome with drinck at the tyme when he [ought to] play, by the Judgment of flower of the said company, he shall and will pay Tenne shillings; and if he [the said Robert Dawes] shall [faile to come] during any plaie having no lycence or just excuse of sicknes he is contented to pay Twenty shillings; and further, the said Robert Dawes, for him, his executors and administrators, doth covenant and graunt to and with the said Phillipp Henslowe and Jacob Meade, their executors, adminstrators, and assignes by these presents, that it shall and may be lawfull unto and for the said Phillipp Henslowe and Jacob Meade, their executors or assignes, during the terme aforesaid, to receave and take back to their own proper use the part of him the said Robert Dawes of and in one moyetie or halfe part of all suche moneyes as shal be receaved at the Galleres and tiring howse of such house or howses wherein he the saide Robert Dawes shall play; for and in consideration of the use of the same howse and howses, and likewis shall and may take and receave his other moyetie the moneyes receaved at the galleries and tiring howse dues towards the pa[y]ing to them the saide Phillip Henslowe and Jacob Meade of the some of one hundred twenty and fower pounds [being the value of the stock of apparell furnished by the saide company by the said Phillip Henslowe and Jacob Meade the one part of him the saide Robert Dawes or any other somes to them for any apparell hereafter newly to be bought by the [said Phillip Henslowe and Jacob Meade until the saide Phillip Henslowe and Jacob Meade] shall therby be fully satisfied, contented, and paid. And further, the said Robert Dawes doth covenant, [promise, and graunt to and with the said Phillip

Henslowe and Jacob Meade, that if he the said Robert Dawes] shall at any time after the play is ended depart or goe out of the [howse] with any [of their] apparell on his body, or if the said Robert Dawes [shall carry away any propertie] belonging to the said Company, or shal be consentinge [or privy to any other of the said company going out of the howse with any of their apparell on his or their bodies, he the said] Robert Dawes shall and will forfeit and pay unto the said Phillip and Jacob or their administrators or assignes the some of ffortie pounds of lawfull [money of England] and the said Robert Dawes, for him, his executors, and administrators doth [covenant, promise, and graunt to with the said] Phillip Henslowe and Jacob Meade, their Executors and Administrators, [and assigns]

that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Phillip Henslowe and Jacob Meade, their executors and assignes, to have and use the playhows so appoynted [for the said company one day of] every fower daies, the said daie to be chosen by the said Phillip and [Jacob]

monday in any week on which day it shalbe lawfull for the said Phillip [and Jacob their administrators] and assignes to bait their bears and bulls ther, and to use their accustomed sport and [games]

and take to their owne use all suche somes of money as thereby shall arise and be receaved

And the saide Robert Dawes, his executors, administrators, and assignes [doth hereby covenant, promise, and graunt to and with the saide Phillip and Jacob,] allowing to the saide company for every such daye the some of ffortie shillings money of England [In testimony] whereof I the saide Robert Dawes have hereunto sett my hand and seal this [sev]enth daie of April, 1614, in the twelfth yeare [of the reign of our sovereign lord, &c.]

ROBERT DAWES.

HENSLOWE'S DISPUTE WITH HIS COMPANY.

[The subsequent paper is also not now found at Dulwich, but Malone printed it from some original once existing there: it is entitled "Articles of Grievance against Mr. Henslowe." It is followed by "Articles of Oppression against Mr. Henslowe," and both throw a great deal of light upon the obscure history of theatricals at the time.]

Imprimis in march, 1612, uppon Mr. Henslowes joyning companes with Mr. Rossiter, the companie borrowed 80^{li} of one Mr. Griffin, and the same was put into Mr. Henslowe's debt, which made it sixteen score pounds, who after the receipt of the same or the most parte thereof, in march, 1613, hee broke the said companies againe and ceazed all the stocke under culler to satisfie what remayned due to him; yet perswaded Mr. Griffyne afterwards to arest the companie for his 80^{li} who are still in daunger for the same. Soe nowe there was in equitie due to the companie 80^{li}

Item, Mr. Henslowe having lent one Taylor 30^{li} and 20^{li} to one Baxter, fellowes of the companie, cunninglie put theire said privat debts into the general accompt, by which meanes hee is in conscience to allow them 50^{li}

Item, havinge the stock of Apparell in his hands to secure his debt, he sould tenn pounds worth of ould apparell out of the same, without accomptinge or abatinge for the same. heare grows due to the Companie 10^{li}

Alsoe uppon the departure of one Eggestone a fellowe of the companie, he recovered of him 14^{li} towards his debt, which is in conscience likewise to bee allowed to the companie . . . 14^{li}

In march, 1613, hee makes up a Companie and buies apparell of one Rosseter to the value of 63^{li}: and valued the ould stocke that remayned in his hands at 63^{li}, likewise then uppon his word acceptinge the same at that rate, which beinge prized by Mr Daborne justli, betweene his partner Meade and him came but to 40^{li} so here growes due to the Companie . . . 23^{li}

Item, he agrees with the same companie that they should enter bond to plaie with him for three yeares at such house and houses as hee shall appointe, and to allowe him halfe galleries for the said house and houses, and the other halfe galleries towards his debt of 126^u and other such moneys as hee should laie out for playe apparel duringe the space of the said three yeares agreeing with them, in consideracōn wheareof to seale each of them a bond of 200^u to find them a convenient house and houses and to laie out such monies as fower of the sharers should think fitt for their use in apparrell, which at the three yeares beinge paid for to be delivered to the Sharers ; whoe accordinglie entered the said bonds, but Mr. Henslowe and M^r Mead deferred the same, and in conclusion utterly denied to seale at all.

Item, M^r Hinchlowe having promised in consideracōn of the companies lying still one daie in forteene for his baytinge, to give them 50^u hee having denied to bee bound as aforesaid, gave them onlie 40^u, and for that M^r Field would not consent thereunto, hee gave him soe much as his share out of 50^u would have come unto, by which meanes hee is dulle indebted to the companie x^u

In June followinge the said agreement, hee brought in M^r. Pallant and shortlie after M^r Dawes into the said Companie, promising one 12^s a weeke out of his part of the galleries, and the other 6^s a weeke out of his part of the galleries, and likewise M^r Field was thought not to be drawne thereunto ; hee promissed him six shillings weeklie alsoe, which in one moneth after unwilling to beare so greate a charge, he called the Companie together, and told them that this 24^s was to be charged upon them ; threatninge those which would not consent thereunto to breake the Companie and make up a newe without them. Wheareuppon knowinge hee was not bound, the three quarters sharers advauncing them selves to whole sharers consented thereunto, by which meanes they are out of

purse 30^u and his parte of the galleries bettred twise as much 30^u

Item, having 9 gatherers more than his due, itt comes to this yeare from the Companie 10^u

Item, the Companie paid for Arras and other properties 40^u which M^r Henchlowe deteyneth 40^u

In februarie last, 1614, perceivinge the Companie drew out of his debt and called uppon him for his accompts, hee brooke the Companie againe by withdrawinge the hired men from them, and sells theire stocke in his hands for 400^u givinge under his owne hand that he had receaved towards his debt 300^u

Which with the juste and conscionable allowances before named made to the Companie, which comes to 267^u makes 567^u

ARTICLES OF OPPRESSION AGAINST MR. HINCHLOWE.

He chargeth the stocke with 600^u and odd pounds, towards which hee hath receaved as aforesaid 567^u of us, yet sells the stocke to strangers for fower hundred pounds, and makes us no satisfaction.

Hee hath taken all bonds of our hired men in his own name, whose wages though wee have truly paid, yet att his pleasure hee hath taken them awaye, and turned them over to others to the breckinge of our Companie.

For lending of vi^u to pay them their wages, hee made us enter and to give him the profit of a warrant of tenn pounds due to us at court.

Also hee hath taken right gould and silver lace of divers garments to his owne use without accompt to us or abatement.

Upon every breach of the Companie hee takes new bonds for his stocke, and our securitie for playinge with him ; see that hee hath in his hands bonds of ours to the value of 5000^u and his stocke to, which he denies to deliver, and threatens to oppresse us with.

Alsoe havinge appointed a man to the seeinge of his accompts

in byinge of clothes, hee beinge to have vi^a a weeke, he takes the meanes away and turnes the men out.

The reason of his often breakinge with us hee gave in these words: Should these fellows come out of my debt, I should have noe rule with them.

Alsoe wee have paid him for plaie-books 200^{li} or thereabouts, and yet he denies to give us the coppies of any one of them.

Also within 3 yeares hee hath broken and dismembered five Companies.

BOND OF HENSLOWE'S DEPUTY.

[A bond given by Thomas Radford, one of Henslowe and Alleyn's deputies, as Masters of the King's Games, in reference to his deputation and conduct regarding it. The latter portion of the instrument relates to the complaint of a person of the name of Penkett against James Starkey, who had probably seized a dog or a bull belonging to the former, under pretence that it was for the king's use. Starkey is one of the witnesses, as well as Jacob Mede, or Meade, who was one of Henslowe's partners.]

Noverint Universi, &c.

7 June, 1613.

The condition of this obligation ys suche, That whereas the above named Phillipe Henslowe did heretofore of late deliver unto the above bounde Thomas Radforde his Ma^{ties} letters pattents or commission, that he, the saide Thomas, as deputie to the said Phillipe Henslow, and to one Edwarde Allen, Esquire, sholde by vertue of the saide Patent take upp for his Ma^{ties} use bulls, beares, and dogges, accordinge to the intent and effect of the saide letters patents or commission. Yf therefore the saide Thomas Radforde have well and justlye performed and executed the trust therein committed to him, soe that the saide Phillipe Henslowe and Edwarde Allen, or either of them, be not hereafter at any tyme or tymes molested, hindered, ympeached, menaced, scandalized, defamed, or damni-

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fyed by any person or persons whatsoever for any matter, cause, or thinge which the saide Thomas Radforde hathe either done or procured to be done, or hereafter shall doe or speake, other by worde or deed, concerninge the same letters patents or the trust committed to him, the saide Thomas Radforde, and that the quarrell, debate, or controversie of late had or moved betwene one Richarde Penkett, of Penkett, within the Countie of Lancaster, gentleman, and one James Starkey, gent, did not growe or concerne any thinge or thinges, cause or matter, concerninge the saide letters patents, or commission, or deputation aforesaid, that then this obligation to be voide and of none effect, or els to stande, remaine, and be in full power, strength, and vertue.

THOMAS T. R. RADFORDS marke.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

JAMES STARKY.

JACOB MEDE.

EDWARDE GRIFFIN.

THE SHE SAINT.

[Daborne here assumes a somewhat different tone, and talks about engaging a play with some other company. "Mr. Pallant" was, of course, Pallant the actor, who, in 1623, had become one of the king's servants.]

Mr Hinchlow, y^u hav now a full play. I desyr y^u should disburse but 12*l*. a play til they be playd. I mean to urdge y^u no farther; for if y^u like not this, y^u shall hav another to y^r content. Befor god, y^u shall hav the full play now; and I desyr but 20*s*. to serv my ordynary turn, till I have finished one, that y^u may hav y^r choyse, for I would hav y^u know I can hav mony for papers, though I hav cast myself upon y^u with a purpose to deserv y^r love. As for Mr Pallant is much discontented with your neglect of him: I would I knew y^r mynd to giv him awnswer. Sr, if y^u deny me this reasonable kyndnes,

it will fore me to ingage a play which y^u will miss : so desyring
y^r awnswer I rest,

y^{rs} at comand,

R. DAB.

28 March, 1613.

pd unto Mr Daborne the 2	Lent of this bille the 29 of
of Aprell, 1614, in earnest of	Marche, in full payment of his
the Shee Saynte, at his owne	new playe laste written, the
howsse, the some of . . viiis.	some of xs.

ALLEYN'S PROPERTY IN BLACKFRIARS.

[The following is a copy of one of the receipts which Alleyn gave quarterly for the rent of a house in the Blackfriars, and which was, in all probability, in some way connected with the Theatre there.]

Rd. this 7 th of January, 1616, of Mr Edward Allen, for a quarters rent of a house latly in the hands of Robert Jones, being in Blackfryers, due at Christid last past, I say Recd. the some of three pounds tenn shillings for my master, Edmond Traves : I say Rd. the some of	}	3 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> .
p me, REYNOLD SOTHERNE.		

A GRATEFUL RETURN.

[A tribute, in verse, from Richard Meridall, who had been educated at Dulwich College. It seems to have been addressed to Mrs. Alleyn, and does not say much for the proficiency of the writer as a verse-maker : he was not deficient in gratitude, and his scholarship was no doubt enough for his station in life, although nature never destined him to undergo the misfortune of being a poet.]

Right Worth,

Itt were needlesse to commend the worth of vertue to a ver-
tuous and understanding disposition, and especially to one that

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is, as it were, the Patrones of vertue and understandinge. Never the lesse, I have presumed, though not worthy your acceptation, to dedicate theis few lynes to your curteous viewes for the bini-fitts I have all readye received from your gracious hands :—

Loe heare shee dwells, whome vertue doeth embrace,
 And keepes foule vice from this most heavenly place :
 To those shee seemes a star most shining bright,
 Whome fortune makes to seeme more darke then night,
 As maye appeare by those twelve orphants poore,
 Whome shee releeves at charrityes blest dore.
 I was one of them that can witnes well
 Shee doeth in love [and] charritye excell,
 For which wee all are joyntly bound to pray
 God to preserve you both night and daye :
 And to conclude, your virtues such are found,
 That none can equall them one earthly ground.

Your worships humble servant,
 ever to commaunde tell death,

RICH. MERIDALL.

ALLEYN'S PURCHASES.

[Relating to Alleyn's pecuniary transactions : the £30 may have been either for a purchase, or for a loan. The mention of Minsheu, as a teacher of languages, is interesting : in "The Memoirs of Edward Alleyn," p. 147, it is stated, on the authority of an entry in his diary, that, in conjunction with the Rev. John Harrison, his chaplain, Alleyn had bought a copy of Minsheu's Dictionary, for which they gave 22s., on January 22, 1618-19.]

[Addressed]

To the wor^d my good freind Mr Allyn, at
 his house on the Banks side.

Sr, if it please you to lay downe xxxⁿ, either your desire
 shalbe effected, or the mony restored within a month or two.

For security you shall have my bond, or if you please a Citizens of good worth. Mr Joanes I heare not yet of. If you send not answer by this bearer, I pray send your man hether with the soonest, that I may know your mind. If you know where I might find Mynshew, or any other Italian or Spanish teacher, you may do me a favour to signify it in your letters. So I rest

Yours in all love,

R. REDMER.

Lambeth, Mai 27.

REDMER'S NECESSITIES.

[A note of much the same purport as the last, and, like it, without date. The similarity of the sum would show that it related to the same transaction. It elsewhere appears that Redmer lived in a house belonging to Alleyn, in Lambeth.]

[Addressed]

To the worth my good freind Mr. Allyn.

Sr,—Upon answer returned on Friday last, I appointed a payment of xx^{li} to be made as to march, but missing your messenger to day at one a clock, and not able to furnish my self so sodainely, I would intreat you either this night (for my quieter sleeping) to send that x^{li}, or to be sure of it to morrow by 6 or 7 a clock in the morning. If you please to deliver to this bearer, my man, this shall be sufficient discharge, together with a note of his hand to testify his receipt. So I desire to be excused, and rest,

Y^{rs} in all love to com.

R. REDMER.

This Sunday at 5 a clock.

ADDRESS TO ALLEYN FROM HIS COMPANY.

[The following interesting document has no date, but we may, perhaps, conclude that it was subsequent to Henslowe's death, in January, 1615-16. It is the original, and contains the signatures of the different players, which we give in fac-simile as a very curious relic of the time. Most of the names will be familiar to those who are acquainted with the history of our early stage: that of Robert Hampton is, in fact, the only new one. William Rowley was an author as well as an actor, and is not to be confounded with Samuel Rowley, to whom he was perhaps related, and who was also an author and an actor. Joseph Taylor has been supposed, on the authority of Wright's *Historia Histrionica*, 1699, to have been the original Hamlet; but this is now known to be a mistake, the part having been played by R. Burbage until his death in 1619. Allevyn had had a quarrel with Jacob Meade, of whom the actors complained, and possibly the address grew out of this proceeding. We may conjecture that the company had been performing at Paris Garden, when it was alternately playhouse and bear-garden, until they were turned out by Meade, and compelled to seek a settlement on the Middlesex side of the water. In this dilemma they applied to Allevyn for a temporary advance, but it does not appear whether he did or did not comply with their wishes: he probably did, as appeals of the kind were seldom made to him in vain.]

Mr. Allen commends,

Sr. I hope you mistake not o^r remooval from the bank's side. wee stood the intemperate weather, till more intemperatr Mr. Meade thrust us over, taking the day from us we^{ch} by course was owrs; though by the time we can yet claime none, and that power hee exacted on us, for the prosecution of our further suite in a house: wee entreate you to fore-think well of the place, (though it crave a speedie resolution) lest wee make a second fruitless paines, and as wee purpose to dedicate all our paines, powers, and frends all referent to yo^r uses: so wee entreate you, in the meane time, to look toward our necessityes, leaving you ever a certaine forme of satisfaction. Wee have neede of some monie (indeed urdgent necessitie,) we^{ch} wee rather wish you did heare in conference then by report in writing:

wee have to receive from the court (w^{ch} after shrovetide wee meane to pursue with best speede) a great summe of monie; meane while, if you'le but furnish us with the least halfe, w^{ch} will be fourtie pounds, it shall be all confirm'd to you, till your satisfaction of the fourty. What we can do for yo^r availe or purpose wee profess our readiest furtherance, and you shall command it, for w^{ch} wee entreate this kindness from you still resting

In your employmentes,

friendes to their best powers,

John Galtorn

William Rowley

Gov. B. Taylor

John Newton

Robt. Garmen

Single Affwall

Anthony Single

[Indorsed]

To our worthy and much respected Friend,
Mr. Allen, these bee ded.

LORD OF THE MANOR OF KENNINGTON.

[The ensuing receipt seems to prove that up to the 30th of September, 1619, Alleyn remained Lord of the Manor of Kennington, as well as Lord of the Manor of Lewisham.]

Kenington, }
 Surry. } The last day of September, 1619.

Received of Edward Allinn, gen., one shilling and eight pence, for one hole yeares quitt Rente, due at S ^t Michael last past, for all his landes, and Ten ^{rs} in the mannor aforesaide, I say Rec to the use of the princes heighnesse the some of	}	" " " 00. 01. 8
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p me, THO. CHEYNIE,
 Bayliffe.

PRAYER AND POEM.

[The following prayer is in a female handwriting, and perhaps was penned by one of Alleyn's wives, probably the daughter of Dr. Donne: it may be more than doubted whether his first wife, Joan Woodward, could write. The well-known lines upon sack are on the margin of the paper, accompanied by various scribblings of no interest. The whole is on the back of the rough draft of the appointment of John Wickender to be Alleyn's deputy for the collection of rents, &c., in the parish of Cowden, part of the Manor of Lewisham.]

Allmighty god, thy name be blessed for presarving me this day: grant mee thy grace to pass all my days in thy feere, and in the love of my husband.

AMEN.

Sacke will make the mery mind be sade,
 Soo will it make the mallincolly glad:
 If mearth and sadenes dooth in sake remaine,
 When I am sade Ile drinke sum sake againe.

ALLEYN'S KINDNESS TO HIS NAMESAKE.

[The writer was Warden of Dulwich College at the death of the founder, and subsequently became Master. He resided in the country (it is not stated where, nor at what date) at the time when he sent the following letter, which shows how kind Edward Alleyn had already been to him. It does not distinctly appear whether Mathias Alleyn was any, or what relation to Edward Alleyn.]

[Addressed]

To the woorshipfull my very good Mr, Mr
Edw. Alleyn, at the bancke sid, geive these.

My dutie remembred unto your woõp, and unto my mistr. with my humble and hartie thanks for all your loving kindnes shewed unto me, and for your laste kindnes that I received at your handes in every respecte, when I was with you laste. And nowe at this time, as my dutifull love dooth binde me, I wryte unto your woõp leaste that you shoulde thinke that I had forgotten my selfe of that which is my dutie to dooe in regard of your kindnes towards mee: and further I intreate your good will and your furdurance concerninge my comminge to London to settell; as your kinde speeches was at my laste departure from you that I should have your good will and your faver in that or in anie thinge for my good, and I hope it would be for my good; but three thinges I dooe especially desire: the firste is God's mercifull blessinge and your love and kind furdurance, and that I might have but woorke to keepe 3 or 4 at woorke, &c. Yt nowe fallethe out that there is a howse, that if it please you soe to directe me that I might have as my freind the bringer of this unto you will more at large sertifye you of it, better then I can nowe wryte of it, because I never it [yet] did see it, but by my freindes letter have harde of it, but I will com to see it shortly, if please you to direct me at [sic] to take it alsoe; but I desire your opinion in thease courses, and alsoe your kind answer soe

shortly as it maye please you, &c. And in remembrance of my love and dutie, I have sente you and my mistris a cople of fatt henns. I praye except of that, and thus, as my cristian dutie dooth bynde me, I praye and will dooe that the lord will blese and preserve you booth in soule, in body, and mind, to his glory and your everlastinge joye. The x of marche.

Your servante to command,

MATHIAS ALLEYN.

My freind's name, the bearer or bringer heereof, is William Scotte.

ALLEYN A TENANT OF BANKSIDE PROPERTY.

[The writer of this letter was at the time confined in the White Lion Prison in Southwark, (see Stowe's Survey, by Thoms, p. 153) and probably parted with his property in consequence of pecuniary difficulties. It does not appear what the "certain tenements on the Bankside" were which Allyn held of Luntley. The Rose theatre, in which Henslowe and Allyn had been interested, must at this date have been pulled down.]

Mr. Allen, my love remembred unto you. Whereas you hold a lease of me of certeine Tent^s on the bancke side for a certeine terme yett to come. Soe it is, I have made them over for twoe yeares to one Mr. John Freebody, whoe is to receave of you the rent you paie me, which is xiiij^u a yeare. He is to receave of you this quarters rente, iij^u x^s, which I pray you paie unto him, and the rest as it shall growe due; whereof I thought good to certefye you under my hand, notwithstandinge the deede, which I would have done soner, but expectinge to have seene you. And soe for present I take my leave.

Your lovinge freind,

JOHN LUNTLEY.

From the White Lyon in Southwarkth, is
viiijth of January, 1623.

RECEIPT FOR THE RENT.

[This is the receipt given to Alleyn by Freebody, in consequence of the payment of the rent mentioned in the foregoing letter.]

The xvth day of January, 1623.

Receaved by me, John Freebody, of Edward Allen, Esquire, the some of three poundes and tenn shil- linges, for a quarters rent due att Christmas last past, for certeyne ten ^{ts} on the Bankes side, which are assigned over unto me by M ^r John Luntley. I say R.	}	iiij ^{li} x ^s
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JO. FREEBODY.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STATUTES OF DUL- WICH COLLEGE.

[The subsequent draft of an introduction to the statutes of Dulwich College must have been prepared under Alleyn's inspection very late in his life, which terminated 25th November, 1626. He was born two years after Shakespeare, and outlived him by about ten years. It is on a blank space of this draft that Alleyn wrote, with his own hand, that clause in his Will which is printed in his "Memoirs," p. 184. The document inserted below, which must have been prepared by a lawyer, is evidently incomplete, as none of the statutes of the College of God's Gift are appended.]

In the name of God, amen. To all Christian people to whom this present writinge quadrupartite shall come. I, Edward Allen, of Dulwich, in the countie of Surrey, Esquire, sende greetinge in oure Lorde God everlastinge. Whereas, our late soveraigne lord Kinge James of famous memorie, late King of England, Scotland, Fraunce, and Ireland, deceased, by his highnes letters patentes under the Great Seale of England, bearinge date at Westminster the one and twentieth daye of

June, in the yeare of his raigne of England the seventeenth, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth, did of his speciall grace, certaine knowledge, and mere motion, for him, his heires, and successors, amongst other thinges, graunt and geve license to me, the sayde Edward Allen, that I, or after my death, my heires, executors, or assignes, or everie or anie of them, for and towards the reliefe, sustenaunce, and mayntenaunce of poore men, women, and children, and for the instruction of the sayde poore children, to be enabled and to have full power and libertie, at mine owne and my heires, executors, and assignes will and pleasure, to make, found, and erect, create and stablish, one Colledge in Dullwich aforesayde, in the sayde Countie of Surrye, which should endure and remaine for ever, and should consist of one maister, one warden, fower fellowes, sixe poor brethren, six poore sisters, and twelve poore schollers, to be maintayned, susteyned, educated, guided, governed, and ruled, according to sutch ordinances, statutes, and foundation, as shall be made, sett downe, stablished, and ordeyned, by me, the sayde Edward Allen, in my liffe tyme, or by anie other person or persons after my decease, sutch as shalbe especiallie nominated, deputed, and appoynted theareunto by me, the sayde Edward Allen, in my lyfe tyme, under my hand and seale in writinge, for the mainteynaunce, sustenaunce, education, instruction, guidinge, government, and rule of the sayde maister, warden, fower fellowes, six poore brethren, six poore sisters, and twelve poore schollers.

And whereas our sayde late soveraigne lord Kinge James, by the sayde letters patentes, of his more ample and abundant grace, certayne knowledge, and mere motion, did graunte and geve license for him, his heires and successors, to me, the sayde Edward Allen, as longe as I shall live, and after my death to such person or persons as I, the sayde Edward Allen, shall in my liffe tyme nominate, depute, and appoynt, under my hand and seale, in writinge, and to everie or anie of them, from tyme to tyme, and as often as noede shall require, to make,

ordayne, constitute, and establish, statutes, ordinances, constitutions, and rules, for the good and better mayntenaunce, sustenaunce, relieffe, education, government, and orderinge, as well of the sayde Colledge so to be created, erected, founded, and established, as aforesayde, as of the sayde maister, warden, fower fellowes, six poore brethren, six poore sisters, and twelve poore schollers, and their successors, for ever, and also of all and everie the manor, messuages, landes, tenementes, hereditamentes, in the sayde letters pattentes mentioned, and the rentes, issues, revenewes, and profittes of the same. And that the sayde statutes, ordinances, constitutions, and rules, so by me, the sayde Edward Alleyne, in my liffe tyme, or by the sayde other persons, or anie of them, after my decease, to be made, ordeyned, or constituted, shall for ever and in all succeeding tymes stande, be, and remaine inviolable, and in full force and strength in lawe, to all constructions, intentes, and purposes, the same beinge not repugnant to the prerogative royall of our soveraigne Lorde the Kinges Ma^{tie}, nor contrarie to the lawes and statutes of this his highness realme of England, nor anie the ecclesiasticall lawes or constitutions of the church of England, which then shouldbe in force, as by the sayde letters pattentes, whereunto reference beinge had, amongst other thinges, more at large itt dothe and may appeare.

And whereas I, the sayde Edward Allen, by my deede quadrupartite bearinge date the thirteenth day of September, in the sayde seventeenth yeare of the raigne of our sayde late soveraigne lord Kinge James, for the better mainteynaunce, education, relieffe, and sustenaunce of poore, needie people, men women, and children, of the severall parishes of St. Botolphes without Bishoppes gate, London, of St. Saviours in Southwarke, and of that part of the parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, London, which is in the countie of Middx, and of the parish of Camerwell, in the countie of Surrey, by vertewe and force of the sayde letters pattentes, and by the power and authoritie

thereby to me graunted and given by our sayde late soveraigne lorde Kinge James, did, by the sayde writinge quadrupartite, make, founde, erect, create, and establish one Colledge in Dullwich aforesayde, in the sayde countie of Surrey, which shall continewe and remaine for ever, and shall consist of one maister, one warden, fower fellowes, sixe poore brethren, six poore sisters, and twelve poore schollers, and that the same Colledge shall for ever be called and named the Colledge of Gods Guift in Dulwich, in the countie of Surrey, as in and by the sayde writinge quadrupartite, whereunto reference beinge had, amongst other thinges, more at lardge itt doth and may appeare. Now know ye that I, the sayde Edward Allen, to the honour and glorie of Almightye God, and in thankfull remembraunce of his guifts and blessings bestowed uppon me, and for the better mainteynaunce, relieffe, sustenaunce, education, government, and orderinge, as well of the sayde Colledge, as of the sayde maister, warden, fower fellowes, six poore brethren, six poore sisters, and twelve poore schollers, by vertewe and force of the said letters patentes, and by the power and authoritie thereby to me graunted and geven, do ordeyne, make, constitute, and founde ordinaunces, constitutions, provisions, rules and statutes for the good and orderlie rule and government, as well of the sayde Colledge, as of the sayde maister, warden, fower fellowes, six poore brethren, six poore sisters, and twelve poore schollers, and also of the sayde manors, messuages, landes, tenements, and hereditamentes, in the sayde letters patentes, mentioned, in manner and forme as itt foloweth written in these English wordes, viz.

NON-PAYMENT OF RENT BY THE FORTUNE TENANTS.

[The succeeding document is important in connection with the history of the Fortune Theatre, and the property belonging to it, only about ten years after the death of its owner. The tenants had fallen into arrear, and the matter had been thrown into Chancery. The whole annual rent was £128 5s. 4d., and the Master, Warden, Fellows, and Court of Assistants certify that they had been compelled to take money up at interest to supply the deficiency. At this date the rent of the Fortune, &c., formed an important part of the property of the College, but it soon became of little or no pecuniary value, and the improvement in the worth of land at Dulwich and its vicinity rendered the loss comparatively little felt. There is no doubt that about this date the Fortune began to be disused as a place for dramatic representation, and before 1640 the company, which played in it, had removed to the Red Bull.]

4^{to} Septembris, 1637.

At a Court of Assistentes held at Goddes guifte Colledge in Dulwich, the daie and yeare aforesaid, it appeared that the Tenauntes of the Fortune betweene Whitecrossestreet and Golding Lane, in the parish of S^t Giles, Creplegate, London, are in arrere and behind in rent at this present the summe of 132^{li} 12^s 11^d. And there wilbe a quarters rent more at Michas next, which is doubted wilbe also unpaid, amounting to 32^{li} 1^s 4^d, which will make in toto due at Michas, 1637, 164^{li} 14^s 3^q. And in respect the rentes come not in as aforesaid, the said Colledge is compelled to take moneys up at interest to supplie their wantes, and relief of the poore of the said Colledge.

MATHIAS ALLEYN, Mr	}	fellows.
THOMAS ALLEYN, Ward.		
SIMON MACE		
SAMUEL PORTER		
WILLIAM SUTTON		
WILLIAM HOLMES		

FRAN. GROVE	}	Assistentes.
THOMAS HAWARD		
WILL FULCHINE		
ROB. SANDARSON		
JOSEPH ARMENT		
NICHOLIS N. I. IVE		

THE TENANTS OF THE FORTUNE.

[This petition to Lord Keeper Littleton proves that the College had again had trouble in collecting the rents of the Fortune property, and we now hear of two new names in connection with it — Edward Jackson and John Beale.]

[Indorsed]

Petition to the Lord Keeper, 1640.

To the right hon^{ble} Sir Edward Littleton, Knight, Lord Keeper of the Greate Seale of England.

The humble petition of Mathias Alleyn, the Master, Thomas Alleyn, the Warden, 4 fellowes, 6 poore brethren, 6 poore sisters, and 12 poore schollers of the Colledge called Gods Guift Colledge, in Dulwich, founded by Edward Alleyn, esq., deceased.

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners did heretofore exhibit their Bill of Complaint in this ho^{ble} Court against the Tennauntes of the Fortune Playhowse for rent, which they unjustly detayned from your Petitioners upon pretence of a restraint from playing.

That, upon a full hearinge of the said cause the 26 of January, in the 14 yeare of our gracious King Charles, his Lordship did order that the said Tennants should pay all their rent in arreare without any abatement, which accordingly they did either compound for and pay for a certaine tyme.

That, since the making of the said order, one John Beale bought a lease of a parte of the said Playhouse, which lease was heretofore demised by the aforesaid Edward Alleyn to Edward Jacson, under the yearely rent of 10^{li} 13^s 10^d, for which rent the said Beale is now in arreare 42^{li} 15^s 1^d.

That the said John Beale combining with the rest of the

Tennants have detayned their rent from the Colledge, whereupon your Petitioners did exhibitt their bill of complaint the second time in this ho^{ble} Court in Michalmas terme in the 15th yeare of our gracious King Charles ; and the Tennants being served with subpenas to answer to the said bill, every of the said Tennants, except the said John Beale, pretended payment of their rent, and did pay, but since doe detaine their rent, to the great prejudice of the pore people of the said Colledge.

That the said John Beale did delay your petitioners in putting in his Answer, insomuch that three attachments issued out against the said Beale before he would put in his Answer.

That the said Bill and Answer haveing had their due proceeding in this Court, and publication being now past this Hillary terme, the said Tennants are runn in arreare with your Petitioners the sume of 104^{li} 14^s 5^d due at Christmas last past, insomuch that your petitioners, to maintaine their poore of the said Colledge, are compelled to take moneys at interest to supply their wants. Now, in tender consideration of your Petitioners great necessity herein,

Your Petitioners humbly pray your Honour to be pleased, according to the aforesaid order hereunto annexed, that all the Tennants which are behinde with their rent may be ordered to pay their rentes to the Colledge ; or otherwise to bee pleased to set downe a day of hearing the said cause sometime this vacation before your Honour, that your Petitioners may not be delayed any longer by the said John Beale and the rest of the aforesaid Tennants. All which your Petitioners doth submitt to your Honours grave wisdome and charitable consideration. And shall pray for your happines, &c.

The above said order of the 26 of January, and the certificate for publication are hereunto annexed.

If this cause be ready for hearing, lett it be sett downe for

H

the fourth seale after the Terme, so as proces be timely served on the adverse parties.

(Cop.)

ED. LITTLETON, C. S.

9 Feb. 1640.

Ex. Vera Copia,
GEO. BROME.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT ON THE FORTUNE.

[What follows affords a very exact and minute account of the state of the Fortune Theatre, and of the adjoining property, in the summer of 1656, little more than 30 years after it had been rebuilt of brick. The report also contains a project for constructing twenty-three tenements on the ground, the College being put to no expense in the erection of them.]

To all to whom theise presentes may conceirne, wee, whose names are heerto subscribed, being desired by the Mr. and Warden of Dulwich College to vew the ground and building of the late playhouse called the Fortune, scituate betweene Whitecrosse streete and Goulding lane, in the County of Middlesex, after consideration had in each particular, doe humbly certefy as followeth, viz.

That the late playhouse, and tapphouse belonging to the same, standeth upon a peece of ground, conteyninge in length, from East to West, one hundred twenty and seven feete and a halfe, a little more or lesse; and in breadth, from North to South, one hundred twenty and nine feete, a little more or les: and that by reason the lead hath bin taken from the said building, the tiling not secured, and the foundation of the said playhouse not kept in good repaire, great part of the said playhouse is fallen to the ground, the tymber thereof much decayed and rotten, and the brickworke so rent and torne that the whole structure is in no condition capable of repaire, but in great danger of falling, to the hazzard of passengers' lives. And further, that the said building did in our opinions cost building

about two thousand pound ; yet, in as much as greate part of the tymber is rotten, the tyles much broaken and decayed, and the brick walls much shaken, and the charge for demollishing the same will be chargeable and dangerous, uppon these considerations, our opinion is that the said materials may not bee more worth then eighty pound.

And secondly, in as much as we fynd there are severall tenements, northward of the gateway next Whitecrosse streete, belonging to the said hospitall, which are out of lease, and other in Goulding lane, which are neere out of lease, that our opinion is, it will bee most convenient and profitable for the sayd hospitall to cutte a streete of twenty fower feete wyde from Whitecrosse streete to Goulding lane, and that there may bee fower-teene tenementes erected betweene the said streete and lane, on the north syde thereof, besydes the tenementes on the streete syde ; each of which tenementes may conteyne in front, from East to West, about eighteene feete ; and in depth, from North to South, fifty feete or thereabouts : also that there may bee nyne tenementes erected betweene the said streete and lane, on the South side thereof, each of which sayd tenements may conteyne in front, from East to West, eighteene feete or thereabouts ; and in depth, from North to South, fifty feete or thereabouts : and that the ground on which the said twenty-three tenements may bee erected will or may yeeld to the said hospitall about three shillings each foote, in front ; and that the said two fronts doe conteyne in length, from East to West, fower hundred and fyteene feete or thereabouts ; and that each foote of the said front may bee worth the some [of] three shillings, soe that the whole fower hundred and fyteene feete may amount unto the sum of sixty and two pound, five shillings, beside the tenementes standing. In testimony of the truth of which particulers wee have hereunto sett our hands, this 18 day of July, 1656.

EDW. JERMAN.

JOHN TANNER.

Memorand. it is [def. in MS.] that who may take the ground to build after this manner, and soe acquitt the landlords from any charge therein, that the said landlords doe demise the said ground for the terme of forty or fifty yeers or more ; but for lesse tyme few will undertake the same : and it is further necessary that each builder bee tyed to a forme and scantling for such buildings.

EDW. JERMAN.

JOHN TANNER.

[Addressed]

For the Master or Warden
of Dullige, this.

FATE OF THE FORTUNE.

[The *Mercurius Politicus* for the week ending February 21, 1661, contains an advertisement for letting the ground, on which the Fortune stood, on a building lease, it being calculated (as appears by the preceding document, and as is stated in the advertisement) that twenty-three tenements might be constructed upon it. (See Hist. of Engl. Dram. Poetry and the Stage, iii. 311.) By what ensues we find that a builder had been found to undertake the work, who was to have a lease, with similar covenants to those contained in a lease granted to John Greenhill, who had taken some property then belonging to Dulwich College in Pye Alley, Bishopsgate Street, and which had been left to it by the Founder. These papers are quite new in the history of the Fortune, and clearly show what was its ultimate fate in less than forty years after it had been reconstructed by Alleyn.]

[Indorsed]

4^o Mart. 61. Copy of the Order of Ct. of
Assistants of the Fortune ground, &c. to
Beaven.

At a Court of Assistants held at God's guift Colledge in
Dulwich, the 4th day of March, 1661.

Whereas the Fortune playhouse, scituated betweene White-
cross street and Goulding lane, in that part of the parish of
St. Giles Creplegate which is in the County of Middx, hereto-

fore considerable part of the revenue of this Colledge, hath of divers yeares last past stood empty and bene utterly uselesse to the said Colledge, not yeilding any rent, but bene chargeable to it ; by reason whereof the said playhouse was very ruinous, decayed and fallen downe, and is since totally demolished, noe man ever attempting to take the same to build on, although the members of the said Colledge have bene very industrious and carefull, and used their utmost endeavours by all lawfull wayes and meanes to promote the same. And whereas of late William Beaven, cit, and tiler and bricklayer of London, hath adventured on the designe, and hath at his owne proper costs and charges new built and erected on the ground whereon the said late playhouse stood, and on certaine other ground thereunto belonging, twenty messuages or tenementes with backsides, gardens, and other conveniences to them severally belonging : It is therefore ordered by this Court, in consideration of the great charge the said William Beaven hath laid out and expended in building of the said 20 messuages or tenementes, and of what further expences he shalbe hereafter at in erecting any other messuages or tenementes on the said ground, as also in pursuance of a decree in the high Court of Chancery, bearing date the 21st day of November now last past, that the said William Beaven shall have a lease in writing, under the Colledge seale, of all the said messuages or tenementes by him erected as aforesaid, with all lights, wayes, easementes, commodities, appurtenances whatsoever to them or any of them now belonging or appertaining, for the tearme of 21 yeares from Mids^r last past, under the yearly rent of 34^{li} 10^s payable quarterly, or within 21 dayes next after every of the four usuall feast-dayes, by even portions ; hee the said William Beaven, at his owne charge, defraying all taxes and impositions hereafter to be charged on the said premises : and hee to observe, performe, and keepe all such covenants, conditions, and agreeements as are conteyned and expressed in one indenture of demise lately made from the said Colledge to John Greenhill of

certaine tenementes in Pye Alley, Bishopsgate streete: in which lease, to be made to the said William Beaven, the Colledge shall covenant for themselves and their successors to make and seale unto the said William Beaven, his exors, admors, or assignes, one other indenture of lease, in writing, under their common seale, of all the said premises for the tearme of 21 yeares more from the expiration of the first mentioned lease, at and under the said yearly rent of 34^{li} 10^s and covenantes in the said John Greenhill's lease comprised.

And at the end of the said second lease the Colledge, or their successors, shall make and seale unto the said William Beaven, his exors, admors, and assignes, one other lease, in writing, under their common seale, of the said premises, for the tearme of three yeares, to commence from the expiration of the said second lease, at and under the yearly rent of 34^{li} 10^s, and under the covenants in the said John Greenhill's lease specified; hee the said William Beaven, his exors, admors, and assignes, sealing, and in due form of law executing a counterparte of each lease or leases.

As to the exceptions and other covenants, not comprised in M. Greenhill's lease, I can say nothing.

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THE END.

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